CALTCM’s Long Term Care Quadruple Aim: Saving Lives of NH Residents and Staff

Michael Wasserman, MD, CMD
Immediate Past President, California Association of Long Term Care Medicine
December 2, 2020
• Nursing homes are the most complex, large small businesses, in the history of mankind!
• Caring for the MOST vulnerable and frail population ever!
• Less than optimum staffing and resources
Kirkland SNF was ground zero

- “Best” thing for our country!
- Sounded the alarm
- Nursing homes and assisted facilities essentially locked down
- Focused on Infection Control
- Was it enough?
- No
CALTCM’s Long Term Care Quadruple Aim for COVID-19 Response

- Sufficient and properly used PPE
- Readily available testing of staff and residents
- Stellar Infection Prevention
- Emergency Preparedness/Incident Command Mode
Sufficient PPE

- Everyone should be wearing a Mask
- N95’s around COVID-19 Positive residents
- Must use PPE properly
- Can not run out, THIS IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT!!
- Without PPE, the virus wins the battle
Readily Available Testing

- Test All Staff (highest priority)
- Test All Residents
- Cohort residents and staff based on results
- Retest frequency based on community prevalence
- Evidence still providing direction regarding testing frequency
Stellar Infection Prevention

- **EMPOWER YOUR INFECTION PREVENTIONIST (IP)**
  - One person MUST be designated to be the IP!
  - This should be a FULL-TIME role during this pandemic!
  - Can NOT be distracted by other responsibilities

- **KEY IP RESPONSIBILITIES**
  - HAND HYGIENE training and audits
  - REGULAR ROUNDS throughout facility promoting hand hygiene
  - EFFECTIVE USE OF PPE
  - MONITORING Staff and Visitors
  - Evaluate residents with ANY Change of Condition
ENGAGE THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

- Medical Director should strongly support the IP and their role and responsibilities
- Evaluate complex admissions and any resident with possible Covid-19 infection
- Assist in critical thinking and decision making related to Covid-19 in facility
Emergency Preparedness Mode

- Key to operationalizing everything else!
- Leadership & Management is critical!
California Association of Long Term Care Medicine

@CALTCM
#CALTCM
@Wassdoc

Check the CALTCM Website (CALTCM.org) and e-newsletter, the CALTCM Wave, for updates.