Long Term Care Environment of Care

Denice Tracy | MDH ICAR Nurse Specialist, CIC

DISCLOSURES

Nothing to disclose

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify resources to assist with conducting Environment of Care (EOC) rounds
2. Discuss how to conduct EOC rounds and how to identify infection transmission risks.
3. List process improvement strategies to address trending in EOC rounding.

INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE (ICAR) PROGRAM

- Purpose: establish partnerships to improve infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity
- Partner with Facility Infection Preventionist
  - Assess IPC domains
  - Identify focus areas tailored to facility's needs
  - Provide resources
  - Consultative – not regulatory
  - No cost

- Infection Control Assessment and Response Program (ICAR) - MN Dept of Health (state.mn.us) or email health.icar@state.mn.us

APIC EOC CHECKLISTS and RESOURCES

APIC TEXT OF INFECTION CONTROL AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

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APIC MN LTC COMMITTEE

- Contact: Candace Trondson at Ctrondson@lyngblomsten.org
- Meetings are prior to the APIC MN General meetings starting at 11 AM
  - Feb 10, 2022
  - May 12, 2022
  - Aug 11, 2022
  - Nov 10, 2022
  - Feb 9, 2023
  - May 11, 2023
  - Aug 10, 2023

EOC ROUNDS

- **How**: Team approach
- **Who**: Infection Preventionist, Leadership (nursing, administration), Environmental Services, Maintenance, Safety Officer, Unit Champion, etc.
- **Where**: Resident room and bathroom, community shower/tub rooms, community rooms (including dining rooms), nursing station, medication room, linen rooms, storage areas (equipment and supplies), soiled utility room, janitor closets, kitchen/kitchenettes, PT/OT, laundry, staff rooms, exam/treatment rooms
- **When**: monthly, focus areas on a rotating schedule
- **Why**: **Identify areas of risk for infection transmission and injury**

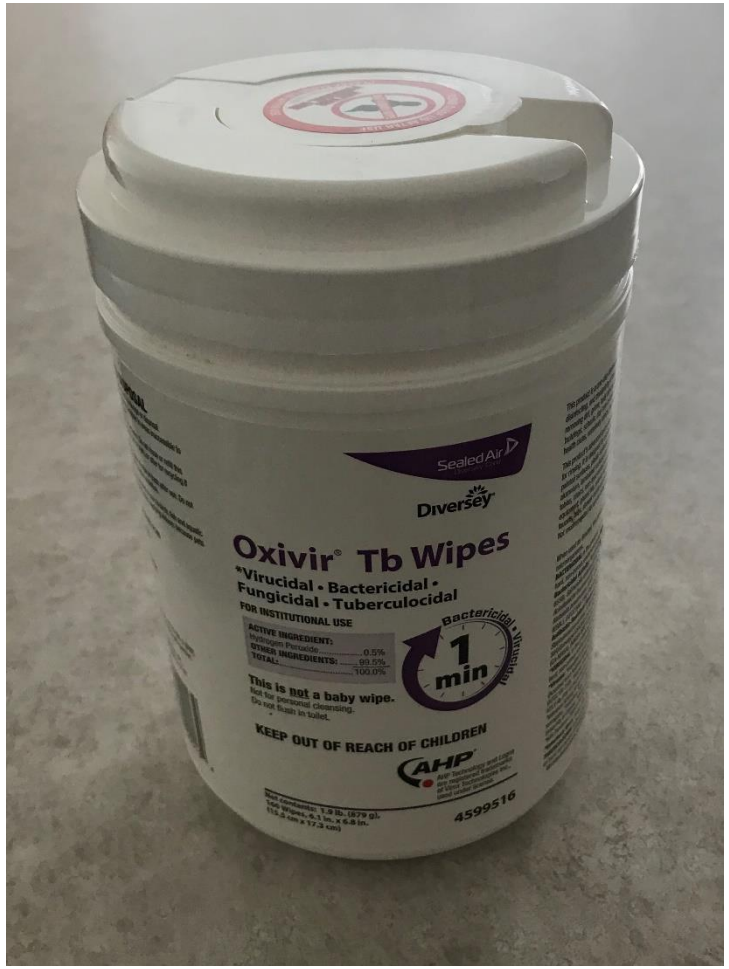
GENERAL THEMES OF EOC ROUNDS

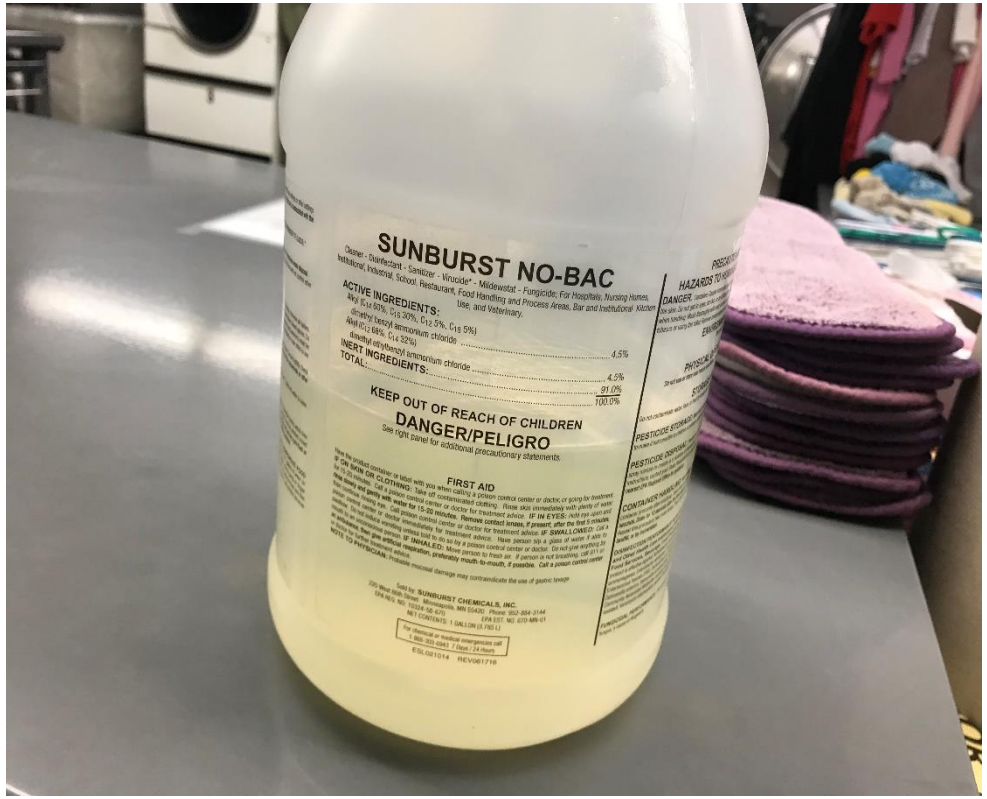
- Cleanliness – all surfaces need to be cleanable
- Organized- free from clutter
- Clear distinction between clean and dirty
- Storage of equipment and supplies
- Maintenance – Do items need repair?
- Safety for staff and residents – What poses a risk?
- Observations of practices: Hand hygiene, PPE & source control usage, handling and cleaning equipment after use, use of disinfectants, processes, etc.

ALL FACILITY AREAS

- Laminated signage
- Floor storage
- Corrugated shipping boxes
- Placement of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispensers
- Ceilings, walls, floor
- Vents, lights
- Hallways
- Hard surfaces – frequently touched surfaces
- Soft surfaces – cushioned furniture, privacy curtains
- Clutter
- Food/beverages in designated areas
- Cleaning/disinfection products and processes

DISINFECTANTS & WIPES





EPA Approved Disinfectants: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants

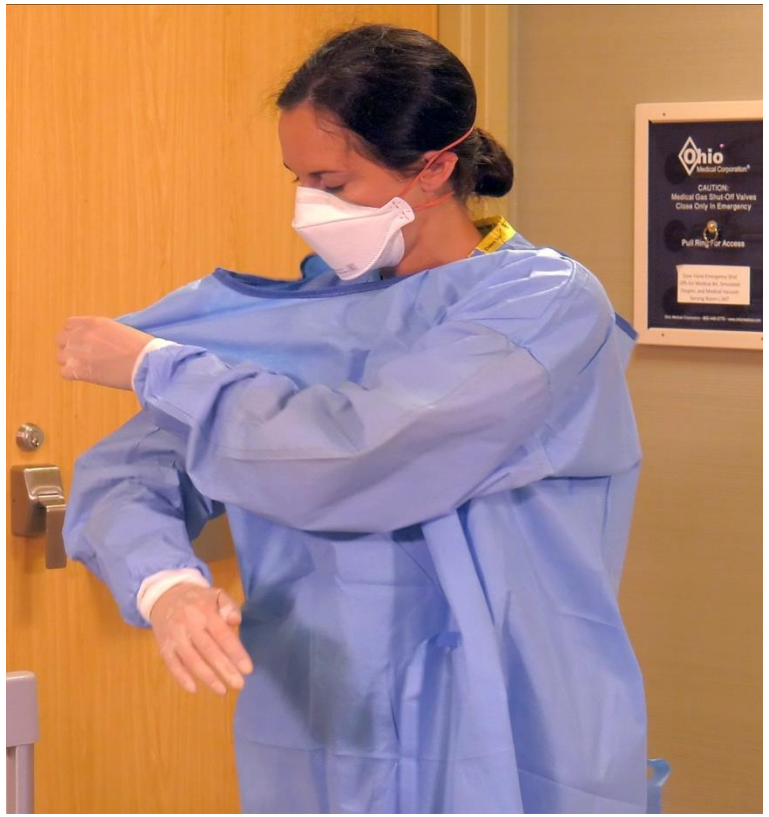
OBSERVATIONS OF IPC STAFF PROCESSES

Hand Hygiene

Isolation & Quarantine Rooms

OBSERVATIONS OF PPE DONNING

OBSERVATIONS OF PPE DOFFING



RESIDENT ROOMS

- Clutter
- Floor storage in a corrugated box
- Damaged wood cabinet
- Items on floor & visible soiling
- Supplemental nutrition
- Privacy curtain
- Smell?

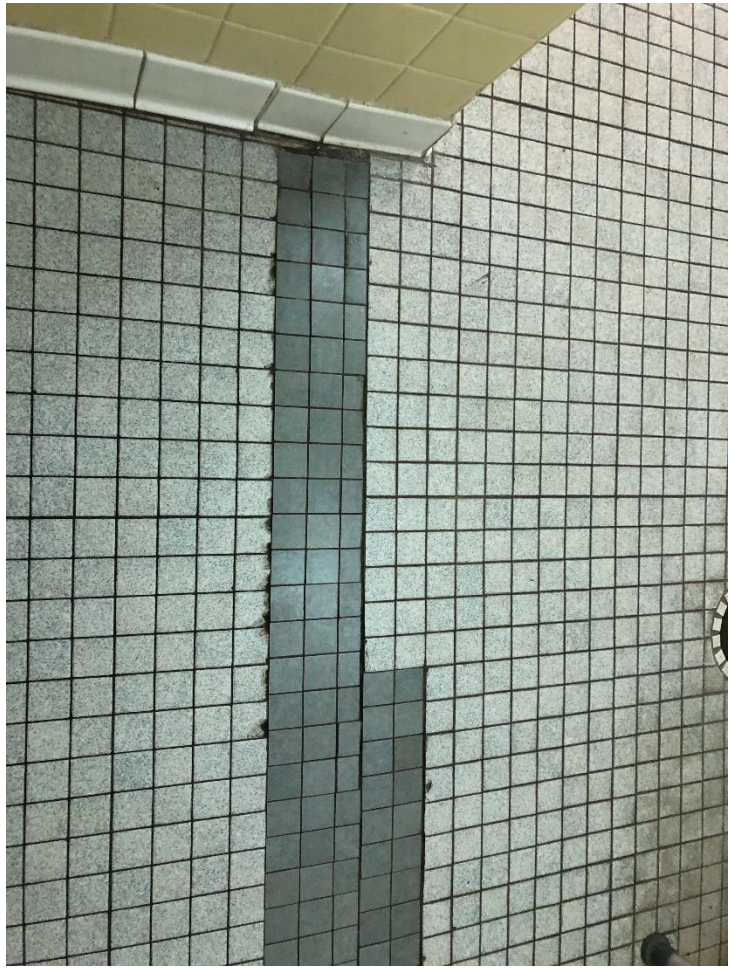
TUB ROOMS

RESIDENT COMMUNITY SHOWER/TUB/BATHROOMS

- Resident's personal items present
- What is shared?
  - Nail clippers
  - Personal Products – shampoo, body wash, creams, etc.
  - Disposable hygiene wipes - how are these dispensed?
  - Basins
- Storage of linen
- Soap and paper towel dispensers full
- Shower chairs, other equipment

RESIDENT SHOWER ROOMS

SHOWERS & RESTROOMS



- Cracks and cervices
- Grout
- Caulking
- Mold
- Flushing of showers/tubs when used infrequently

RESTROOMS

SOILED UTILITY ROOMS/JANITOR CLOSETS

- Area is clean and uncluttered
- Soiled linen bagged at the point of use
- Soiled linen is covered
- Mop buckets are emptied after use with mop hung to dry
- Direction for operation of automatic dilution/mixer system
- Cleaning products labeled
- Cleaning cloths and paper products (toilet paper and paper towel) are stored above cleaning chemicals)
- Staff know how to use cleaning products

UTILITY ROOMS

UTILITY ROOMS

LINEN & LAUNDRY

Linen

- Stored separately or covered
  - Separate room or enclosed cabinet
  - Covered cart
  - Covered plastic containers
- Bottom shelf needs to be solid
- Transported covered from Laundry or vendor

Laundry

- Resident used area
  - Cleaning of machines, free from soap residue
  - Lint traps
  - Unclaimed clothing
- Frequency of cleaning
- Disinfection by heat or chemical
- Reference APIC Text

EQUIPMENT

- Shared resident equipment: lifts, wheelchairs, scales BP cuff, thermometers, bladder scanner, etc.
  - Process for cleaning
  - What disinfectant to use and where is it kept?
  - Follow manufacturer's Instructions for Use (IFU)
  - How stored
- Ice machines, beverage dispensing units, humidifiers, fans
- Designate equipment when possible
  - Lift slings
  - Gait belts
  - Durable medical equipment – nebulizers, CPAP, BiPAP, O_2, etc.
  - Blood glucose monitors
- PT/OT
  - Therapy hot packs
  - Exercise equipment

MEDICAL DEVICES

https://apic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Infographic_noncritical_is_critical.pdf

STORAGE OF SUPPLIES

Clean storage

- Remove items from corrugated shipping boxes
- Store on cleanable shelving or in cleanable totes, solid bottom shelf
- Sterile supplies, new PPE, paper products
- Food related items

Non-clean (Dirty) Storage

- Games
- Activities and recreation
- Under sinks
- Unused equipment and furniture
- Client storage areas

NURSING STATION & CHARTING AREAS

- Clean & clutter free
- Availability of ABHR
- Lotion compatible with ABHR
- Food/beverages
- High touch surfaces – keyboard, phone, counters
- Cleaning of high touch surfaces

MEDICATION CART/ROOMS

- Counters clean and free of clutter
- ABHR readily available/Soap and paper towel dispensers full
- Refrigerator used only for medications
- Refrigeration temperatures logs maintained
- Freezer defrosted
- Stock medications labeled with date “opened” – How are these dispensed?
- Expiration dates checked
- Rotate supply – first in, first out
- Topicals, eye drops, and inhalers are stored in separate bag/container labeled with resident name
- Pill cutters and crusher

INJECTION SAFETY

- Injectable drugs are never drawn up a head of time
- Safety devices are used with all injectables
- Sharps containers less than ¾ full
- Blood glucose monitoring process
- Single use vials vs multi-use vials
- PPE available
- BBP post-exposure process known by staff
- Biohazard waste process

OTHER AREAS

Kitchen and Kitchenettes

- Hand hygiene
- Safe food handling practices
- Food safe chemicals
- Food items labeled and dated
- Expiration dates
- Disinfection of dishes
- Food storage

Staff Break Room

- Cleaning schedule
- Brushes and sponges
- Staff refrigerators
- Microwave, coffee maker
- Dishes in sink

EOC ROUNDS COMPLETED, WHAT'S NEXT?

- Compile data
- Assign corrections
- With leadership, develop a process for follow-up
- Create a dashboard of EOC finding per unit, floor, station
- Share at IPC Committee Meetings
- Does your data shows trends?

IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

- Education
  - **Project Firstline** – IPC training to frontline workers
  - https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/patientsafety/infectioncontrol/pfl/index.html
- Engage frontline workers in developing solutions
- Build on what is working
- Develop or revise policies, procedures, processes
- Adopt Unit Champions with devoted time
- **Celebrate improvements!**

ICAR NURSES

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Thank You!

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