



Infection Prevention and Control: Regulations & Requirements



Nursing homes are required by federal and state laws to prevent and control infections. Federal law states that nursing homes who receive federal funds:

“must establish and maintain an infection and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.”

These requirements include:

Establish and review (at least annually) an infection prevention and control program that at minimum:

- Has a system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases for **all** residents, staff, volunteers, visitors and other individuals who provide services.
- Includes a program that promotes appropriate antibiotic use that improves resident outcomes & reduces resistance to antibiotics by germs.
- A process in place to record and correct any incidents related to infection prevention and control.
- Is written with standards, policies, and procedures and must include:
 - a system to identify diseases and infections *before* they spread
 - precautions to be followed to prevent spread
 - when and how to isolate residents in the **least restrictive manner possible**
 - When employees are prohibited from direct contact with residents or their food if they are sick
 - Hand hygiene to be followed by staff who provide direct care to residents
 - A method to handle, store, process, and transport linens (bedding, towels etc.) to prevent the spread of infection

Want to know more? Contact your nursing home advocate or send an email to ICARE@unthsc.edu

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