



South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organization

SD Department of Health Panel

Assisted Living Centers

Main Presenter: Shelly Walstead, RN, Public Health Advisor for Assisted Living Centers

- **Top Infection Control concerns identified in the last year**
 - Facility had not identified an individual to implement and oversee the infection control program. This issue resulted in the inability to properly monitor and report infections.
 - Hand hygiene (resident cares, medication administration, food handling)
 - Improper use of gloves in multiple settings (resident care, food handling) – “magic gloves”
 - Lack of policies and procedures
 - Failure to train staff on the policies and procedures
 - Lack of disinfection of equipment (vitals machines, shared glucometers, transfer devices, etc.)
 - Cleaning products not used according to manufacturer’s recommendations
 - Inappropriate products used (e.g., not a disinfectant)
 - Cross contamination (one product used in multiple areas and for multiple residents)
 - Tuberculin screening not completed within 21 days of admission for residents or hire with staff.
 - New staff not evaluated by a licensed health professional within 14 days of hire to ensure they are free from communicable diseases.

- **National trends**
 - Staffing issues continues to be a challenge in many facilities and across multiple provider types. This leads to challenges related to training/re-training.

- **Recent CMS (or State) guidance related to Infection Control**
 - Assisted Living Centers are licensed at the state level and are not federally certified through CMS. However, the regulations and much of the guidance provided is consistent across the provider types.

- **Best Practice for a Successful Survey**
 - Be prepared for a visit at any time.
 - Facility practices should always follow state requirements and should not have to be adjusted for the survey.
 - Ensure documentation for residents and staff records are accurate and readily accessible to survey team.