



Osservatorio Nazionale

delle Buone Pratiche sulla sicurezza nella Sanità

Level:Local Health Authority

Topic: SARS-COV-2 infection prevention and control in long term care facilities

Contact details: rischio.clinico@uslumbria2.it 0744204038-0744204311 (Dr.ssa Tockner Margarete e Dott.ssa Grasselli Laura)

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTION IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Most cases of Covid-19 infection were diagnosed in elderly people with multiple pathologies. The elderly population is fragile and needs to be protected howsoever. Therefore, as part of Sars-Cov-2 prevention and control, we need to pay the utmost attention to the older adults.

There are 7 directly-managed long-term care facilities in the territory of the Local Health Authority Umbria 2 with an overall number of 210 beds. Being variable-sized communities, with a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 70 residents, there is the risk of epidemic outbreaks.

In the framework of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis, a detailed analysis of nursing homes situation was deemed essential in order to implement appropriate measures to prevent outbreaks and to plan and manage interventions in emergency situations.

The Clinical Risk management department of the Local Health Authority Umbria 2 has developed the following tools to implement the guidelines included in the Report 4/2020 of the Italian National Institute of Health and the prevention measures for hospitals and healthcare organizations of the Local Health Authority Umbria 2:

- Checklist for Sars-CoV2 infection prevention and control in long-term care facilities
- Screening sheet for visitors

The Checklist for Sars-CoV2 infection prevention and control in long-term care facilities allows the facilities to self-assess their strengths and weaknesses in preparedness to COVID-19 management, so as to improve emergency response. Assessment is to be carried out for 6 general measures and 30 specific measures alongside and level of implementation (fully implemented- partially implemented- not yet implemented) and supporting documents should be reported.

Considering that art.2 par.4 of the Decree of the Prime Minister March 9,2020 has banned relatives and acquaintances from accessing care homes, visits can be authorized, in exceptional cases, after appropriate risk-benefit assessment. The Checklist sets out in the specific measure: early identification of suspected COVID-19 infection among visitors, workers and residents by using the Screening sheet for visitors, which allow to immediately identify people with flu-like symptoms (dry cough, widespread muscle pain, headache, runny nose, sore throat, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, vomiting) and/or fever.

The Clinical Risk Management service has distributed the checklist to the 7 facilities.