

STAFF HUDDLE: IPC TOPIC- GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS (GAS) IN LTCFs

WEEK 1

☐ What is Strep A

- Group A Streptococcus (GAS) are bacteria commonly found on the skin or in the throat. Under some circumstances these bacteria can cause disease.
- Group A Streptococcus (GAS) infections are a serious cause of illness and death for adults 65 years.
- Residents of long-term care facilities (LTCFs) are particularly at risk for severe infection and death from GAS infections.

WEEK 2

☐ Routes of Transmission of Group A Streptococcus (GAS)

- Routes of transmission are common in long term care facilities (LTCFs) once introduced into a facility, GAS can easily spread through multiple routes.
 - ❖ GAS is transmitted from an infected or colonized person through:
 - Respiratory droplets.
 - Contact with saliva or nasal secretions.
 - Contact with open sores or wounds.
 - ❖ GAS can be transmitted to others in a LTCF.
 - Residents
 - Visitors
 - Healthcare personnel (HCP)
 - ❖ Spread of GAS among residents in LTCFs has been associated with the following:
 - Having a roommate who is infected or colonized with GAS.
 - Being cared for by the same HCP as a resident who is infected or colonized with GAS.
 - Residing on the same unit as a resident who is infected or colonized with GAS.

WEEK 3

☐ Are GAS infections serious?

- Older adults living in LTCFs are at even higher risk of GAS infection and death compared to older adults living in the community.
 - Residents of LTCFs have a 3- to 8-fold higher incidence of invasive GAS infections and are 1.5 times more likely to die from GAS infections.
- GAS can cause a [spectrum of syndromes](#) and severity of infections in residents of LTCFs. Some of these infections can rapidly progress within a matter of hours to days.
- [Cellulitis](#) and wound infections are the most common types of GAS infections among older adults and among residents of LTCFs.
 - Less common but more severe GAS infections include bacteremia (bloodstream infection), [pneumonia](#), septic arthritis (infection of a joint), [necrotizing fasciitis](#), and [streptococcal toxic shock syndrome \(STSS\)](#).

WEEK 4

☐ How do you protect yourself and others from Strep A infections?

- The best way to keep from yourself getting or spreading GAS is to clean your hands often.
 - Clean hands, preferably using alcohol-based hand rub/sanitizer.
 - Use personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Put on a face mask before opening sterile supplies.
 - Wear a face mask with eye protection if doing a task that might result in coughing or sneezing.
 - Wear a gown and gloves if there may be contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
 - Use dedicated or single use equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions. (If not possible, ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfection after each use.)

- Clean and disinfect environmental surfaces.
 - Maintain separation between clean and soiled equipment to prevent cross contamination.
 - Increase audits and observations during an outbreak
 - ***Follow Contact and Droplet Precautions if GAS is suspected or known until 24 hours of antibiotic therapy completed.***
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