

Changes created by implementing infection prevention strategies can be challenging for those with impaired memory. To reduce fear and anxiety in a population with impaired memory, approach care using structure and routine, and include visual cues.

TAKE P-R-I-D-E IN THE CARE YOU PROVIDE

P - Provide opportunities for in-room activities (if in isolation) or in small groups that can accommodate spacing (if social distancing is necessary).

R - Remind people in your care to perform hand hygiene routinely. Model expected behaviors. Provide visual prompts to foster routine hand hygiene, teeth brushing, etc. Validate appropriate behavior.

I - Investigate changes in behavior that may indicate a change in health. Knowing the normal (baseline) condition will help in recognizing change. The **Stop and Watch** tool is a great resource for identifying changes in health.



D - Discuss details (preferences related to food, drink, bathing schedules, etc.). Meeting people "where they are" related to their abilities and understanding their preferences (actively listening) can help increase confidence and establish routines.

E - Establish routines to assist in recall related to activities of daily living. Get creative; use a calendar

- with visual cues associated with each day and time
- that an activity is to take place.

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INFECTION PREVENTION IN MEMORY CARE

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WHEN ISOLATION IS NECESSARY FOR SAFETY

Use a tool to guide you through the decision-making process and document details.

Dementia
Isolation
Toolkit



CONSIDER/DISCUSS

- Whether to relocate to an isolation unit or isolate in place
- A person's ability to understand and remain in a room and measures to assist with maintaining isolation:
 - 1:1 observation needed?
 - Location of isolation room-near nurses' station for observation?
 - Using visual cues to remind resident/patient to remain in room and remind others (who are not family or involved in care) not to enter room (i.e., secure door guard safety banner)
- Communication (why? where? duration?) to patient/resident, family and direct care providers
- Involvement of health department professionals
- Ensuring personal items (pictures, etc.) are moved before or with resident
- Personal Protective Equipment (type needed, where to locate, etc.)
- Cleaning of equipment, environment, etc., product to use and frequency of cleaning

Isolation is often anxiety producing. Frequent check-ins, addressing needs and offering in-room activities can reduce anxiety. Consider having multiple staff sign-up to check in for 3-5 minutes unrelated to medication administration or other I- activities. Brief check-ins have been shown to have a positive impact on both residents/patients and staff.



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