

Gastrointestinal Illness Case Study

Norovirus Outbreak January 2013-February 2013

1/15/13: Have had 3 employees from unit B call in with GI symptoms in last 48 hours (E1, E2 and E3). No resident cases as of 0830 when Kim at WCPH notified. Unit B is currently in quarantine for Influenza. Will monitor staff and residents for symptoms. No changes to current practice. Medical Director updated as well as Corporate. Notified around 1130 that one resident on unit B was symptomatic of gastroenteritis (R1). Resident already in droplet precautions with roommate as roommate positive for Influenza. Resident placed in contact precautions. Resident line list started. Stool specs for C-diff and Norovirus sent to lab. Medical Director updated as well as corporate. Email with update and instructions sent out to all staff.

1/16/13: One new suspected resident case of gastroenteritis on unit A today (R2) placed in contact precautions. No new staff cases. Unit B remains in unit quarantine. C-diff spec from 1/15 negative on unit B patient (R1); Norovirus still pending.

1/17/13: One new resident case of gastroenteritis on unit B (R3) and one new employee case of suspected gastroenteritis on unit B (E4). Unit B remains in unit quarantine.

1/18/13: No new resident cases of gastroenteritis today. One new staff case from unit C (E5). Message left for WCPH at 1215 to update. Return call from Kim at WCPH at 1345. Updated on gastroenteritis symptoms with residents and staff. Unit B remains in unit quarantine. All meals, activities and therapy on unit. All symptomatic residents and roommates for those with GI sx remain in room isolation with appropriate precautions. Bleach continues to be used throughout the facility for cleaning along with high touch areas being cleaned several times/day. Will continue to monitor gastroenteritis throughout the facility. Updated line lists faxed to WCPH.

1/19/13: One new staff with GI symptoms from unit B, (E6) though last worked on 1/16. All precautions remain in place.

1/20/13: One new resident on unit C developed GI symptoms in the evening (R4). No employee call ins with GI symptoms.

1/21/13: No new residents with GI symptoms. Three new staff called in with GI symptoms, 2 from unit C (E7, E8) and one SS (E9). One additional staff person was sent home from Unit A (E10) after the start of the shift due to reported GI symptoms, though this was questionable. Unit C placed into unit quarantine. Meals to be eaten separately from unit D residents (unit C in Sunroom and unit D in MDR). Spoke with Kim at WCPH around 0945 to update on line list, all call ins and GI outbreak status. In reviewing symptomatic residents and staff, it was determined that the employee from unit B (E6) who called in on 1/19 with GI symptoms and last worked on 1/16 would not have exposed illness to other residents when he/she was working. Therefore, unit B would not need to be in quarantine for GI. Unit C in quarantine for GI. Units A and D are clear. Plan discussed with Medical Director as well as our Corporate office. All in agreement. Four residents in the facility had NAAT respiratory panels sent to lab.

1/22/13: Two new employee cases related to GI symptoms, one from unit C (E11) and one from unit D (E12). No new resident GI cases. No new employee or resident cases of ILI.

1/23/13: One new resident with GI symptoms on unit C (R5) and one on unit D (R6). No new employee cases.

1/24/13: No new employee GI cases. One new resident with GI symptoms on unit C (R7). Noro spec sent to lab from resident on unit D (R6) who began with symptoms 1/23. Noro spec from unit B (R1) that was sent out 1/15 came back positive for Norovirus. Message left for Kim at WCPH at 1530 to update. Await return call.

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1/25/13: No new employee cases with GI symptoms. One new resident case on unit C (R8). Kim from WCPH updated at 0930. Unit C remains in quarantine for Norovirus. Continue with isolating any symptomatic residents for ILI and/or GI. Continue with strict bleach cleaning throughout the facility.

1/26/13: One new employee call in with GI symptoms today from unit A (E13). No new resident cases. No new resident or employee cases with respiratory symptoms.

1/27/13: Three new resident cases with GI symptoms on unit D today (R9, R10, R11). Unit placed in unit quarantine. One of the residents started having frank blood with emesis and was admitted the hospital with a GI bleed (R9) and removed from Norovirus list. Resident from unit D (R6) that began with GI symptoms on 1/23 tested positive for Norovirus. Unit C's 2 residents continue with symptoms and that unit also remains in unit quarantine. No new staff cases. No new staff or resident cases with respiratory symptoms today.

1/28/13: No new staff or resident cases with GI symptoms. Medical Director updated on facility status.

1/29/13: Three new employee cases with GI symptoms today. One housekeeper from unit A (E14), one CNA from unit D (E15) and one CNA from unit C (E16). Three new resident cases with 2 on unit D (R12, R13) and one on unit C (R14). Both units remain in quarantine. Three residents removed from isolation today between units C and D.

1/30/13: One new resident with GI symptoms on unit D (R15). No new staff. Message left for Kim at WCPH to call for update at 1045. Corp consultant here to do infection control QA throughout facility. Educational email sent to all staff. Kim from WCPH updated at 1515. Discussed to keep unit D residents in their rooms as much as possible to prevent co-mingling. We will keep residents in their rooms as we are able. For those residents who are excessively confused and will not stay in their rooms, or those who are a safety concern for being left unattended, we will at a minimum keep them down their own hallways. We will also feed residents in their rooms as much as possible or at least down their own halls if they need to be fed. Email notification to staff and verbal instructions provided. Updated line list will be faxed to WCPH on Friday per their request.

1/31/13: One new resident on unit C with GI symptoms (R16). Two new employees, one from unit A (E17) and one from unit C (E18) with GI symptoms.

2/1/13: No new staff cases with GI symptoms in the facility. One new resident from unit D (R17) with GI symptoms. One Norovirus from unit D result was negative. Resident from unit C who had started with GI symptoms on 1/29 expired last evening. Resident was scheduled to be discharged to home with hospice care on 1/30, but family chose to have resident stay due to secondary GI symptoms. Results of Norovirus were positive today for that patient. Kim at WCPH updated at 1500 and updated line list faxed. Units C and D each remain in unit quarantine with unit D keeping most patients in rooms or at minimum down their own halls. Continue to restrict the floating of staff as much as possible while still providing adequate staffing for all residents. Bleach continues to be used throughout the facility.

2/4/13: From the weekend through today there were 6 new residents with GI symptoms on unit C (R18, R19, R20, R21, R22, and R23). Room quarantine was initiated. All residents to remain in their rooms as much as possible (taking into account residents with high safety risks). No new resident cases with GI from unit D. Four new staff cases with GI symptoms from the weekend to today, one from each of the four units (E19, E20, E21, E22).

2/5/13: No new resident cases with GI symptoms on unit C. Three residents on unit C removed from contact precautions, 4 remain in contact precautions. No new cases on unit D. One resident removed from contact precautions on unit D, 2 remain. Continue to confine unit C and D residents to their rooms as much as possible. Continue to review staffing daily to prevent floating of staff to/from unit C and D as we are able. Bleach continues to be used throughout the facility. One new staff call in with GI symptoms from unit D (E23) noc shift.

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2/6/13: No new resident or staff cases with GI symptoms. Four residents on unit C remain in contact precautions. One resident from unit D removed from contact precautions, one resident remains. Kim at WCPH updated on status. Reviewed all precautions the facility has in place. Discussed the initiation of room quarantine on unit C from the weekend. WCPH states that Norovirus is in the community with 2 different strains. Kim stated that she felt we are doing a very good job at keeping it under control within our facility and that she believes visitors are most likely bringing it into the facility since our cases had been “trickling in”. We initiated the room quarantine on unit C with the increased number of cases over the weekend. We discussed resident quality of life related to confining residents to their rooms and that it is a difficult decision to make. Discussed restricting visitation on the units. Signage is posted throughout the facility and at unit C and D entrances regarding Norovirus. We have not restricted visitors as this would affect resident quality of life. Kim also stated that we have not hit their definition of an outbreak for Norovirus at any point in time.

2/7/13: No new resident cases with GI symptoms today. One resident removed from contact precautions on unit C. Three residents remain in precautions. One resident remains in precautions on unit D but is expected to be removed tomorrow morning. One new employee from therapy with GI symptoms (E24). Employee had not worked on the 2nd floor. Updated line list faxed to WCPH.

2/8/13: Two new residents on unit C (R24, R25) and one new resident on unit D (R26) with GI symptoms today. One new staff from 2nd floor (E24). Two residents from unit C removed from isolation. Infection Control Audit Tool developed to monitor all staff compliance on units.

2/9/13: No new resident or staff cases.

2/10/13: Two new resident cases with GI symptoms on unit B today (R26, R27). No new staff. All residents on units C and D removed from isolation except one on unit D. The one remaining began with symptoms on 1/27 and continues with diarrhea (R10). Tested positive for Norovirus 1/30 and negative for C-diff on 2/9. Will have MD review on 2/11.

2/11/13: No new staff or residents with GI symptoms. Resident from unit D removed from contact precautions after review by PMD. Two residents remain in contact precautions on unit B.

2/12/13: One new resident with GI symptoms on unit B (R27). Unit placed into “hallway” quarantine. Will not admit to the unit. Email notification sent to all staff. Message left for Kim at WCPH to call for update at 0930. Units C and D removed from quarantine as no new cases on either unit since 2/8. Notified of one new staff case (E25), though employee reports symptoms began 2/10. Medical Director updated on facility status. Kim at WCPH updated at 1430 and in agreement with plan.

2/13/13: One new employee case with GI symptoms (E26). No new residents. One resident on unit B removed from contact precautions. Two residents remain. Unit B remains in quarantine.

2/14/13: No new employee cases with GI symptoms. One resident on unit A (R28) had 2 episodes of vomiting and was placed in contact precautions. Remaining two residents on unit B removed from contact precautions. If unit B remains symptom free, will plan to re-open on 2/16.

2/15/13: No new staff or resident cases with GI symptoms.

2/16/13: One new staff case with GI symptoms from unit A (E27). The employee had an emesis x1. No new resident cases. Unit B re-opened.

2/17/13: No new staff or resident cases with GI symptoms.

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2/18/13: No new resident cases...all residents out of isolation for gastroenteritis in facility. One new employee case with GI symptoms from the dietary department (E28). The employee had reportedly tried to switch shifts with others and was unable to, and then called in with GI symptoms. The employee stated she believed she had food poisoning. It is questionable if the employee was truly ill.

2/19/13: No new resident or staff cases.

2/20/13: No new resident or staff cases.

2/21/13: No new resident or staff cases.

***Norovirus:** Our Norovirus outbreak had onset dates from 1/15/13 through 2/14/13. A total of 31 residents were placed on the line list. A total of 31 staff were also affected.

RESIDENTS

Unit	January	February	Totals
A	1	1	2
B	2	3	5
C	6	9	15
D	7	2	9
Totals	16	15	31

STAFF

January: 20

February: 11

Total: 31