KEEPING AT-RISK PATIENTS SAFE

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My role: As an Infection Control Practitioner, I usually assume a proactive role in the prevention, control, and management of facility acquired infections. I do this by staying informed about infection rate and trends, educating our staff and monitoring the implementation of our Infection Control Program policies and procedures. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the scope of such activities multiple times over. Because this life-threatening viral infection is easily transmissible, it presents challenges for our at-risk population.

Impact of COVID-19: The rapidly evolving pandemic and the adjustments in guidelines by the CDC, local and state agencies have made our Infection Control Program a key resource for the facility leadership, our disaster preparedness and response process and frontline staff. I am called upon to provide leadership and knowledge to the entire Coler family because of my expertise in the area of infection control as an educator, consultant, counselor, and Quality Assurance Performance Improvement coordinator.

Why I’m on the frontlines: I strongly believe that I have the solemn responsibility to impart my knowledge and expertise to the clinical and non-clinical staff for the prevention and control of infection. This is especially the case with COVID-19, which is highly transmissible.

Managing Stress: Once I feel overwhelmed, I take moments to recharge my energy through reflection and meditation. I thank God for the blessings I receive and for giving me a chance to make a difference in the life of others. I remain hopeful that the efforts that our Coler team take to combat COVID-19 will yield positive outcomes for the well-being of our residents and staff.