



## RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE NEWS

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to acknowledge the significant impact the coronavirus (Covid-19) is having on the aged care sector communities and individuals across the world, especially older people and those who are vulnerable. You all are at the forefront of this evolving situation.

We recognize that you will currently be experiencing significant stress and increased demands in your workplace and your priorities will be to your residents, yourselves and your loved ones. At this time, we also acknowledge the need for continuing to provide excellent communication and palliative care in your facility.

Over the coming weeks, we will provide a newsletter and advise you of some upcoming activities that may be of assistance. At the moment you are being overloaded with information and we don't want to add to that.

Importantly, it is critical that every one of you stays as well and healthy as you can be. That includes looking after your mental health during this time.

I am still available by phone and email *and would welcome any questions, suggestions for fact sheets, podcasts or other material*

### Just in case

Most of you will be well prepared for the difficult times ahead but have you thought about the following? Have you made sure you have ample equipment to care for your residents if the need arises?

- **BD Saf T Intima** – do you have sufficient cannulas onsite and ready for use for any resident that may require it?
- **Syringe Drivers** – if you have one when was it last checked, cleaned and calibrated? Do you have sufficient batteries? Do you have sufficient minimum volume extension tubing? Are staff comfortable and familiar with its use – if not a brief review might be a good idea.
- **Mouth Care** – how many packets or jumbo swabs do you have? What mouth care products do you use and is there sufficient for a number of residents (think mouth cleaner/ wash, lip balms, oral rehydration products)
- How many **'air mattresses'** do you have and are they all clean and ready to go when needed. Can they be accessed by staff after hours or are they kept in a locked storage area? Do staff know how to use them? Do you have an **IV pole** (or substitute) hidden in the basement?
- **General medical supplies** – needles, syringes, tapes and clear dressings for cannulas
- **COVID19 testkits** – you need to contact to contact your pathology service for these
- **Oxygen** – either bottled or hire and extra oxygen concentrator to have onsite.
- **Power boards and extension cords** – just in case you need some
- **Check electronic equipment** – batteries for digital thermometers and probe covers, pulse oximetry batteries (if you have one onsite) etc.

While I'm sure you are all in pandemic management mode and have your outbreak plans and kits in place and ready to go, this is also an opportunity to review your linen and pillow supplies.

This is also a great opportunity to chat with your pharmacy to review delivery and after-hours details. For those of you lucky enough to have your own medication 'imprest' system, consider increasing the stock volumes if possible.

If you have any suggestions or requests for information, please use the contact details below.

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