



ICARE

Infection Control Advocate & Resident Education (ICARE): Q&A for Ombudsman



What is ICARE? (Goal)

- The goal of ICARE is to educate, engage, and empower all people in a nursing home community to practice infection prevention and control while respecting the rights and roles of residents and those closest to them for high-quality care.
- ICARE provides stepwise educational and engagement tools to promote a nursing home community culture that empowers staff, respects residents and reinforces relationships.

Why was ICARE Developed? (Objectives)

The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated the major impact that infections and their spread can have in nursing home communities. The greatest impact on residents came in the suspension of basic rights, leading to a decline in resident's overall physical, social, and mental health. Therefore, ICARE will help participants understand:

- Basics principles of preventing and controlling the spread of disease in a nursing home environment
- The role of resident rights and infection prevention and control to achieve quality care
- Engaging everyone in a nursinghomecommunityforeffective infection and prevention control strategies that preserve resident rights, physical health, and psychosocial health

How can I teach ICARE? (Tools)

As a long-term care ombudsman, you can help nursing home residents and those closest to them learn the basics of infection prevention and control. ICARE Lessons will be provided in two formats:

- Short, video-based lessons available online or
- Taught by ombudsmen using pre-created slides with content and notes. Notes include a recommended Script, Ombudsman Notes with general information to help you teach ICARE, a "Know Before You Go" section which provides you with more detailed information regarding the topic covered so you are prepared before you present. Lastly, a References & Resources section where you can find more information on the topic

ICARE also provides the tools to motivate participants to become engaged in quality care and empowered as active participants in providing and receiving quality care.

Want to know more? Contact [your nursing home advocate](mailto:your_nursing_home_advocate) or send an email to geriatrics@unthsc.edu

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