KEY TERMS

ADLs – activities of daily living.

Abuse – the willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain, or mental anguish.

Airborne Precautions – actions taken to minimize the transmission of infectious agents that remain infectious when suspended in the air.

Alcohol Based Hand Rub or Sanitizer – a 60-90% alcohol containing preparation designed for use on the hands to reduce the number of microorganisms.

Antiseptic Hand Wash – washing hands with water and soap containing an antiseptic agent.

Biohazardous Waste – items that are contaminated with blood, body fluids, feces, or other body substances that may be harmful.

Bloodborne Pathogen – microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease.

Competency Evaluation Program (CEP) – A hands-on skills examination and a written or oral examination approved by DADS that tests the competency of a nurse aide.

Contaminated – dirty or soiled with microorganisms.

Contact Precautions – measures that are intended to prevent the transmission of infectious agents that are spread by direct or indirect contact with a resident.

Droplet Precautions – actions designed to reduce or prevent the transmission of pathogens spread through close respiratory secretions.

Employee Misconduct Registry (EMR) – a registry maintained by DADS, in accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 253, to track findings of reportable conduct by an unlicensed employee of a facility. The EMR lists persons who are not employable in a facility.

Hand Hygiene – washing hands with water and soap or soap/detergent containing an antiseptic agent or thoroughly and correctly applying an Alcohol Based Sanitizer.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) – a law which protects the privacy of individually identified health information and includes; the HIPAA Security Rule, which sets national standards for the security of electronic protected health information, and the confidentiality provisions of the Patient Safety Rule, which protect identifiable information being used to analyze patient safety events and improve patient safety.

Infection – establishment of an infective organism on a suitable host (person), which results in signs and symptoms (such as fever, redness, heat.)

Isolation – practices employed to reduce the spread of infectious organisms, usually including the separation of the resident with an easily transmitted disease from other residents.

Long-Term Care (LTC) – services that help meet both the medical and non-medical needs of people with a chronic illness or disability who cannot care for themselves.

Medical Asepsis – practices used to remove or destroy pathogens and prevent their spread from one person or place, also called clean technique.

Microorganism (Germ, Pathogen) – a living organism so small that it can only be seen with the aid of a microscope and that often causes disease.

Minimum Data Sheet (MDS) – a 52 page assessment document used to record a complete assessment of a nursing facility residents health status and functional capabilities.

Misappropriation of Resident Property – the deliberate misplacement, exploitation, or wrongful, temporary or permanent use of a resident’s belongings or money without the resident’s consent

Neglect – the failure to provide nursing or nursing-related services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness.

Nurse Aide – An individual providing nursing or nursing-related services to residents in a facility under the supervision of a licensed nurse who has successfully completed a NATCEP approved by the state or has been determined competent by waiver or reciprocity and is listed as active on the Nurse Aide Registry. This definition does not include an individual who is a licensed health professional or a registered dietitian or who volunteers such services without monetary compensation.

Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) – A program approved by DADS to train and evaluate an individual’s ability to act in the capacity of a nurse aide for the purpose of working in a nursing facility.

Omnibus Budget Reconciliation (OBRA) – a federal law passed in 1987 that establishes regulations for nursing facilities and nurse aide training facilities.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) – a government agency mandated to protect the employee by establishing and monitoring work place safety requirements.

Parasite – an organism that lives within or upon another organism or host (person).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – protective items or garments worn alone or in combination to protect the body or clothing from contact with infectious agents. These include but are not limited to gloves, gowns, masks, and protective eye wear.

Registry – a state listings of all individuals who have satisfactorily completed a NATCEP or a CEP approved by DADS or qualified by waiver or reciprocity and are deemed active and employable in a nursing facility. Nurse aides who have a finding entered on the registry of committing an act of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of resident or consumer property are deemed unemployable in a nursing facility pursuant to 42 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), §483.256.

Resident – A person accepted for care or resident in a facility.

Standard Precautions – infection prevention practices that apply to all residents regardless of infection status.

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) – Department that regulates the nurse aide registry and training programs.

Transmission Based Precautions (Isolation Precautions) – actions implanted in addition to standard precautions that are based upon diagnosis and means of transmission in order to prevent spread of infections. These may be airborne, contact or droplet precautions.

A.M. – morning, before noon.

Ambulation – the ability to walk from place to place independently with or without an assistive device.

Elimination – the act of discharging or excreting waste products from the body.

Environment – the conditions and elements that make up the surroundings and influence each individual’s sense of well-being.

Hydration – supplying with ample fluid or moisture.

Hygiene – conditions or practices (as of cleanliness) that are aids to good health.

Nutrition – the process of eating the right kind of food so you can grow properly and be healthy.

P.M. – evening, afternoon or night.

Resident – a person accepted for care or residing in a nursing facility.

Blood Pressure (BP) – the force of the blood against the artery walls as the heart beats.

Document – to record information in a file or chart.

Environment – the conditions and elements that make up the surroundings.

Fahrenheit (F) - relating to a temperature scale.

MINIMUM DATA ST (MDS) – a 52-page resident assessment document used to record a regulations for nursing facility resident’s health status and functional capabilities.

Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987 – a federal law that established regulations for nursing facilities and nurse aide training in facilities.

Observing – to take notice.

Pulse (P) - the rate of the heartbeat.

Reporting – to give an account of.

Resident – a person accepted for care or residing in nursing facility.

Respiration (R) – breathing.

Restraint – a means of restraining; a device or method that restricts movement .

Temperature (T) – the amount of heat in the body.

Vital Signs – signs of life; pulse rate, respiratory rate, body temperature, and blood pressure of a person.

Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987 – a federal law that establishes regulations for nursing facilitation and nurse aide training in facilities.

Prosthetic Devices – an artificial device extension that replaces a missing body part.

Restraint – a means of restraining; a device that restricts movement.

Restorative Services – services given to maintain or give new strength or vigor.

Alzheimer’s disease (AD) – a brain disease of later life that is characterized by changes in brain tissue with gradual loss of memory and mental abilities.

Behavior – the way in which one conducts oneself.

Cognitive – of, relating to being, or involving conscious intellectual activity (as thinking, reasoning, or remembering).

Impairment – a medical condition that leads to a disability.

Psychosocial – relates to one’s psychological development in, and interaction wit, a social environment.

Communicate – to share or exchange information.

Conflict – a serious disagreement or argument.

Resolution – a firm decision to do or not to do something, to reach a decision.