

Caring for the Sick

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- These PowerPoint Presentations are written and provided to prepare the Body of Christ for disasters such as the current pandemic
- These trainings are meant to enable people to safely care for themselves and minister to their neighbors
- By being properly equipped we are then able to bring the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ into the situation
- For more information, please visit outrunningthehorses.com

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me... Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." Matthew 25:35-40

Caring for the Sick

Introduction

- Studies have shown that even basic health care such as adequate water, food, and warmth can result in a much higher percentage rate of survival of a disease.
- During the 1918 Influenza, it was determined that many died simply because there was no one to look after the sick and provide them these basic essential needs.

Caring for the Sick

Introduction

- The elements of caring for the sick may change dependent on the pathophysiology (the process of the disease) of the virus or disease.
- COVID-19 and seasonal influenza present with similar symptoms.
- This presentation will be based on caring for a person infected with either the circulating corona virus or seasonal influenza.

Caring for the Sick

Disclaimer

- This presentation is not a substitute for professional medical help.
- The objective is to provide instructions to care for the sick in the event of a pandemic. It is not meant to take the place of actual medical advice from a healthcare professional.
- To reiterate, this is written for the sole purpose of providing care during a disaster or pandemic when the healthcare system is overwhelmed.

Caring for the Sick

- Topics to be discussed:
 - How to protect yourself
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and Influenza
 - Where to place the sick person
 - Treatment for fever
 - Treatment for cough
 - Treatment for nausea and vomiting

Caring for the Sick

- Topics to be discussed continued:
 - Treatment for diarrhea
 - Treatment for dehydration
 - When to seek emergency care

- Ways to avoid infection:
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, throw the tissue away in a waste basket.
 - If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the sleeve of your bent elbow.
 - Good hand hygiene wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you sneeze or cough.

- Ways to avoid infection:
 - Use disposable paper towels for hand washing, or designate cloth towels to family members.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap is not available.
 - Instruct others to use good sneeze and cough etiquette.
 - Avoid being close-up and face to face with someone who is sick – try to keep a six-foot distance between you and the patient.

- Ways to avoid infection:
 - Place the chin of a small child on your shoulder in case they cough or sneeze.
 - Wear a facemask or respirator.
 - Place a facemask on the patient as well.
 - Contact your healthcare provider about taking antiviral medication for both the patient and yourself.

- Ways to avoid infection:
 - If possible, avoid having someone with increased risks to be a caregiver, such as a pregnant woman, or a person with comorbidities.
 - If possible, have only one member in the household be the care giver.
 - Ensure good ventilation in common areas of the house, open windows in kitchen, living areas, and bathrooms.

- Prescription Antiviral Medications
 - Prescription Antiviral medications do not cure influenza
 - They can however lessen flu symptoms
 - People who are at a higher risk to develop complications may benefit from antiviral medications.
 - Ask your healthcare provider whether you need this type medication.

- Prescription Antiviral Medications
 - At the writing of this presentation there is no prescription antiviral medication that is effective for the circulation corona virus.
 - Ask your healthcare provider if you are dealing with the seasonal flu.

Caring for the Sick How to Protect Yourself

Antibiotics

- Influenza infections can lead to or coincide with bacterial infections, such as bacterial pneumonia
- Therefore, some people will also need to take antibiotics.
- Check with your healthcare provider if you develop worsened symptoms.

Caring for the Sick Personal Protection Equipment

- Transmission of Viruses
 - COVID-19 and influenza are spread mostly from person-to-person through droplets in coughs and sneezes of an infected person.
 - You can acquire the diseases from:
 - Breathing in these airborne droplets.
 - Touching a contaminated surface then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth before washing your hands.

Caring for the Sick Personal Protection Equipment

- Transmission of Viruses
 - These and other viruses can survive on surfaces such as counter tops, doorknobs, and telephones for hours (some studies show for days or weeks).

Caring for the Sick Personal Protection Equipment

- Standard Precautions should be taken to protect yourself when caring for the sick
 - Clean, non-sterile gloves
 - Face mask
 - Goggles or face shield
 - Clean gown a disposable gown is recommended, but a fabric gown can be washed in bleach

- Influenza and COVID-19
 - Both contagious respiratory illnesses
 - They are caused by different viruses
 - COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2)
 - Influenza is caused by infection with influenza viruses

- Influenza and COVID-19 Key Differences
 - COVID-19 seems to:
 - Spread more easily than influenza
 - Cause more serious illnesses in some people
 - Take longer before people show symptoms
 - Enable people to be contagious for a longer period

- Influenza and COVID-19 Similarities
 - Some signs and symptoms are similar
 - May be hard to differentiate
 - Some people may present with mild cases
 - Others more severe
 - Not everyone will present with <u>all</u> the symptoms
 - Diagnosis can be determined by a test performed by a healthcare provider

- Influenza Signs and Symptoms
 - Fever or feeling feverish/chills
 - Cough, sore throat
 - Runny or stuffy nose
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headaches
 - Fatigue (tiredness)
 - Vomiting and diarrhea
 - More common in children than adults

- Influenza Signs and Symptoms
 - Incubation Period (the time between the exposure to the pathogen and the appearance of symptoms) 2 days on average
 - May last up to 4 days in some cases

- Influenza Signs and Symptoms (continued)
 - Seek emergency medical attention for the following:
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
 - Persistent dizziness, confusion, inability to arouse
 - Seizures

- Influenza Signs and Symptoms (continued)
 - Seek emergency medical attention for the following:
 - Not urinating
 - Severe muscle pain
 - Severe weakness or unsteadiness
 - Fever or cough that improve but then return or worsen
 - Worsening of chronic medical conditions

- Some complication of influenza include:
 - Bacterial infections
 - Pneumonia
 - Ear or sinus infections
 - Dehydration
 - Worsening of existing medical conditions

- Contact your healthcare provider if patient:
 - Is an infant
 - Is elderly
 - Has a condition that requires special care
 - Has a pre-existing condition

- Some pre-existing conditions to be concerned:
 - Heart condition
 - Congestive heart failure (CHF)
 - COPD
 - Asthma
 - Emphysema
 - Chronic bronchitis
 - Diabetes
 - Pregnancy

- COVID-19
 - Incubation period is 2 to 14
 - A person may be contagious 48 to 72 hours before starting to experience symptoms.
 - People without symptoms may be more likely to spread the illness
 - They are unlikely to be isolating
 - May not adopt behaviors designed to prevent spread

- COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell

- COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms (continued)
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- Seek emergency medical care if patient is experiencing:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face

- When caring for a sick person it is imperative to limit contact with those who are healthy
- In addition to practicing good hand hygiene and wearing PPE, the placement of the sick person will help control the spread of the disease.

- Place the sick person in a room separate from others:
 - A spare bedroom with its own bathroom is preferable
 - Do not place the person in a room shared by others, especially common living areas.
 - The room should have good ventilation.
 - Keep the door closed.

- Place the sick person in a room separate from others:
 - Limit visitors to just the caregiver.
 - Avoid close contact; keep a distance of six feet if possible.
 - The room and the bathroom should be cleaned daily

- Avoid contact of the infected person with others
- If they must enter common areas they should:
 - Wear a face mask
 - Cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing
 - Practice good hand hygiene.
- The sick person should stay home and avoid contact with others for at least twenty-four hours after the fever is gone without use of any fever reducing medications

- The body's normal temperature is orally 98.6° F (37°C) or 99°F (37.2°C) rectally.
- These temperatures can vary as much as 1° F (0.6°C) throughout the day.
- Please keep in mind that these are average body temperatures
 - Someone's normal temperature may be above or below that of the average.
- The average person can tolerate fevers well

Caring for the Sick Treatment for Fever

Fever

- The body's defense mechanism to fight bacteria or viruses that cannot live in higher temperature
- Is not considered significant unless it is above 100.4° F (38°C)
- Low grade temperatures, fevers should be left untreated
- However, a fever of 103°F (40°C) or higher requires treatment and medical advice,
 - Especially in children and infants

Caring for the Sick Treatment for Fever

Fever

- A fever can last up to three to four days, come and go, and then gradually go away.
- Fever is part of the healing process.
- However, if other symptoms such as trouble breathing; stiff neck; lethargy; chest pain; delirium; or seizures occur; contact your healthcare provider immediately.

- Methods of treating a fever are:
 - Drink plenty of liquids dehydration comes easily with fevers.
 - Take antipyretic and pain killing medications, be sure to read the labels for dosing

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAIDs) medication such Ibuprofen, (Advil, Motrin).
 - Adults 200mg tablets take one to two tablets every four to six hours.
 - Children 5mg/kg every six to eight hours (maximum 40 mg/kg/day).

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
 - Adults 325mg-500mg tablets, take one to two tablets every four to six hours.
 - Children 10-15 mg/kg every four to six hours (maximum 65mg/kg/day).
 - Follow label for dosing.
 - Large doses can cause liver damage.

- Aspirin
 - Do not give aspirin to children less than eighteen years of age as it can cause Reye's syndrome (a rare but serious disease affecting the liver and brain).
 - Adults 325mg-1000mg every four to six hours

- Do not give any medication to babies before consulting your pediatrician.
- Always refer to medication labels when administering to children or infants

- Make sure patient gets plenty of rest
- Keep room temperature at about 70° to 74°F.
- Keep cool, loose, comfortable clothes on patient to prevent trapping of body heat.
- Allow child to have a blanket but remove it when chills stop.
 - Shivering can raise the body temperature

- If fever is high:
 - Consider a lukewarm bath to help lower temperature.
 - Give antipyretic medications before the bath
 - If a bath is not an option, press damp wash cloths on the face, chest, back, wrists or legs.

- If fever is high:
 - Ensure patient doesn't get chilled
 - Be careful not to allow temperature change to happen too quickly
 - This can induce seizures.
 - Antibacterial medications may be needed as well as an antiviral medication to treat any condition that has developed such as bacterial pneumonia.

- When to Seek Medical Care
 - A child younger than 3 months with a 100.4°F
 (38°C) or higher fever
 - 3 to 24 months old with 102°F (38.9°C) or higher fever that lasts more than a day
 - Any child with fever who is listless, irritable, or vomiting repeatedly
 - An adult with a 103°F (39.4°C) or higher fever

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- A cough is our body's way of removing mucus from our lungs and throat
- Productive coughs are useful and should be encouraged to eliminate the mucus
- However, coughs can cause breathing problems and keep the patient from resting

- Some home remedies to soothe coughs include:
 - Use of a humidifier to:
 - add moisture
 - loosen secretions
 - prevent dry coughs
 - Cough drops to soothe an irritated throat

- Some home remedies to soothe coughs include:
 - Cough drops to soothe an irritated throat
 - Warm drinks with honey to soothe the throat (babies younger than 1 year old should not be given honey. Clostridium bacteria that cause infant botulism)
 - Drinking additional fluids to help thin mucus
 - Avoiding smoking and cigarette smoke

- Cough remedies include:
 - Decongestants
 - Relieve nasal congestion and dry up mucus in the lungs
 - Active ingredients: phenylephrine and pseudoephedrine
 - May increase blood pressure
 - Overuse can trigger a dry cough

- Cough remedies include:
 - Expectorants
 - Help thin mucus to aid in coughing it up more easily
 - Active ingredient: guaifenesin
 - Drinking more fluids will aid the guaifenesin to thin mucus

- Cough remedies include:
 - Suppressants
 - Use only if the patient's chest hurts and they are not getting rest, best to use only at night
 - Active ingredient: dextromethorphan
 - Do not give cough medicine to children under the age of four
 - Contact your pediatrician for advice on cough remedies

- Seek medical attention if you have these symptoms with your cough:
 - Shortness of breath
 - Coughing up blood, bloody mucus, or pink foamy mucus
 - Coughing up green, tan, or yellow mucus
 - Fever, chills, or chest pain when you breathe deeply

- Seek medical attention if you have a sore with any of these symptoms:
 - Lasts longer than a week
 - Severe pain
 - Trouble swallowing
 - Fever over 103 F in adults
 - Swollen glands
 - White patches on your throat or tonsils
 - Rash

- These signs and symptoms may indicate a bacterial infection that can be treated with antibiotics
- May also indicate other conditions that require other treatments

- Nausea is a sick feeling in the stomach that precedes vomiting
- Vomiting is the body forcibly expelling the contents of the stomach
- The causes of these can vary widely; however, this context is treating the complications of influenza and COVID-19

- Usually vomiting is harmless unless there are there are complications
 - If the following complications arise, contact your healthcare provider
 - Home treatment is not working, and dehydration is present.
 - Vomiting and diarrhea last more than twentyfour hours with signs of dehydration

- If the following complications arise, contact your healthcare provider
 - If an infant or child under six years show signs of dehydration, fever is present, and there is no urine output for six hours
 - There is blood in the vomit (frank blood or appearance of coffee grounds)
 - Lethargy, altered mental status
 - Severe abdominal pain

- Some home treatments of nausea and vomiting include:
 - Drinking clear liquids
 - Water
 - Ginger ale
 - Fruit juices
 - Avoid milk and dairy products
 - Avoid solid foods until vomiting has passed

- Some home treatments of nausea and vomiting include:
 - Eat a BRAT Diet
 - Bananas
 - Rice
 - Apple sauce
 - Toast

- Some home treatments of nausea and vomiting include:
 - Eat small meals throughout the day; eat slowly
 - Crackers
 - Avoid hard to digest (meats) or fatty foods

- Some home treatments of nausea and vomiting include:
 - Eat small meals throughout the day; eat slowly
 - Crackers
 - Avoid hard to digest (meats) or fatty foods

- Over the counter remedies include:
 - Pepto-Bismol coats inside of stomach and relieves feeling of nausea
 - Dramamine
 - Emetrol relaxes stomach muscles and calms stomach activity (not for diabetics)
 - Kaopectate
 - Ginger
 - Peppermint oil

- Diarrhea or loose bowel movement usually does not last long unless it is caused by an infection
- It is the body's way of expelling an infection
- Giving medications to stop the diarrhea may interfere with body's natural mechanisms.

- If the diarrhea is severe, and dehydration develops, then treatment should take place
- If there is blood or mucus in the stools, dehydration that causes weakness or change in mental status, seek medical attention or dehydration.

- Most viruses are found in feces
 - Can even be spread by touching the feces and not properly washing your hands
 - This can occur when changing a diaper or using the bathroom
 - Be sure to use good hand hygiene when helping someone with diarrhea
 - Ensure the patient practices good hygiene as well

- In many cases of diarrhea, replacing fluids and salts lost is the only treatment needed.
 - May be done by oral rehydration solutions
 - If necessary intravenous fluids

- Over the counter remedies for diarrhea include:
 - Kaopectate
 - Immodium
 - Pepto-Bismol
- Take only the amount recommended
- Do not use more than one anti-diarrheal remedy at the same time

Caring for the Sick Treatment for Dehydration

- We lose water every day in our sweat, urine, and when we talk and exhale
- This is replaced daily with fluids
- However, if the amount of water lost outweighs what we take in – dehydration can occur
- Dehydration can lead to death

- Most causes of dehydration in adults are:
 - Fever
 - Heat exposure
 - Exercise
 - Vomiting and diarrhea
- The best way to treat dehydration is to avoid it

- Encourage the sick person to increase their intake of fluids
- Remember diabetics are more at risk for dehydration
- Avoid alcohol consumption and excess caffeine as these increases water loss

- Signs and symptoms of dehydration include:
 - Increased thirst
 - Dry mouth
 - Weakness/dizziness
 - Swollen tongue
 - Increased heart rate
 - Confusion

- Signs and symptoms of dehydration include:
 - Decreased urine output
 - Color of urine is a dark yellow or amber
 - Hypotension (low blood pressure)
 - Seizure

- Children are at greater risk in developing dehydration
 - In addition, they may not be able to communicate their symptoms
 - You must be aware of the signs

- In children signs of dehydration are:
 - Dry lips and mouth
 - Sunken eyes
 - Rapid breathing
 - Rapid pulse
 - Decreased urination (dry diapers)
 - Sunken fontanelles

- In children signs of dehydration are:
 - Increased irritation
 - Poor skin turgor (pinching the skin on the back of the hand, and it does not return to its original state)

- Encourage those who are dehydrated to take in more fluids
 - Try giving small sips at first
 - With a child consider using a syringe

- Although water is necessary it does not contain the salts and electrolytes that are essential to body function
- Some ways to increase fluids are:
 - Sipping small amounts of water
 - Pedialyte or other over the counter options
 - Popsicles, especially those made from fruit juices

- Some ways to increase fluids are:
 - Sucking on ice chips (may be useful for those who are nauseated)
 - Carbohydrate/electrolyte drinks such as Gatorade,
 PowerAde, and Pedialyte
 - Clear broths
 - Jello

- Oral rehydration solutions (ORS)
 - Way to replace fluids and nutrients lost through vomiting and diarrhea
 - Comes in several forms
 - A powder that can be mixed with water
 - Liquid form

- Some ORS include:
 - Pedialyte
 - Ricelyte
 - Rehydralyte
 - If you don't have access to these at your local grocery store you can mix up an ORS at home

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF a basic ORS is composed of:
 - Salt
 - Sugar
 - Water
- Made using a standard ratio of ingredients

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF jointly maintain guidelines for the manufacture of ORS preparations
- Commercial preparations are available as either pre-prepared fluids or packets of (ORS) ready for mixing with fluid

- A basic ORS is composed of:
 - Salt
 - Sugar
 - Water
- Made using a standard ratio of ingredients
 - 30 ml sugar/2.5 ml salt/1-liter fluid
 - 6 teaspoons sugar/0.5 teaspoon salt/1-quart fluid

- This ORS does not contain potassium. To add this essential element:
 - Add a cup of orange juice
 - Or have patient (if able) eat a banana
- If the patient is vomiting, try giving small amounts of the ORS often, such as one teaspoon every minute

- By monitoring urine output, you can determine success of rehydration efforts
- Medications may be used to prevent nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Intravenous fluids may be necessary if the patient is not able to replace fluids

Caring for the Sick When to Seek Emergency Care

- This presentation was made for the event of a pandemic
- It will be expected that the healthcare system may be overwhelmed, and non-emergent patients will not be as readily addressed as in normal setting
- Please be reminded this information is for a pandemic event, and is not meant to provide medical advice

Caring for the Sick When to Seek Emergency Care

- Seek medical attention if the following signs or symptoms arise for the patient:
 - Chest pain
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Fast breathing
 - Bluish or gray discoloration of the lips or skin
 - Uncontrolled vomiting
 - Uncontrolled diarrhea

Caring for the Sick When to Seek Emergency Care

- Seek medical attention if the following signs or symptoms arise for the patient:
 - Dehydration that results in:
 - Dizziness when standing
 - No urination
 - No tears in infants when crying
 - Seizures
 - Altered mental status, confusion, or, less responsive

Caring for the Sick

- Conclusion
 - In caring for the sick it is important to know:
 - The signs and symptoms of the disease
 - Where to place the patient to avoid additional infections
 - How to treat the various symptoms
 - When to seek medical or emergency care

Caring for the Sick



Questions?

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