



# **ROLE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

*In Assisted Living*

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# Objectives

- What are the roles & functions of a Medical Director?
- How do these roles & functions differ in the Assisted Living setting?
- Why should an AL have a Medical Director?
- How do I find a Medical Director?



# What is a Medical Director?

## Four Main Roles:

1. *Physician Leadership*
2. *Patient Care: Clinical Leadership*
3. *Quality of Care*
4. *Education, Information & Communication*



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# Functions of the Medical Director

- Administrative
- Professional Services
- Quality Assurance
- Education
- Employee Health
- Community
- Rights of Individuals
- Social, Regulatory, Political and Economic Factors
- Person-Directed Care

# Assisted Living Evolving

- People staying home longer with services
- More frail at move-in
  - *Need more hands-on care*
  - *More medical comorbidities and complexity*
- Higher care expectations
  - *Care needs*
  - *Clinical care*
- Growth of in-house provider market





# Assisted Living Medical Director

- Medical Oversight
- Policies and Procedures
- QA Review
- Emergency Treatment
- Transfers of Care
- QAPI Meeting Attendance
- Medical Representation in the Community
- Staff In-service
- Drug Irregularities Review
- Lab Director Coverage

# Assisted Living Medical Director

- Behavior management
- Family concerns
- PCP consultation
- Transitions of care liaison
- State regulation interpretation
- Lab director review



# Assisted Living Medical Director

- Provided insight and expertise that improved care
- Family involvement/interventions
- Extended the length of stay
- Reviewed incident reports & policies/procedures
- Residents/families respond better to information coming from a medical expert
- Reviewed resident appropriateness for AL and consideration of higher level of care
- Awareness of how other local ALs operate



# Outbreak Management

- Legionella
- Scabies
- Influenza
- COVID-19
- Community-wide standards on quarantine
- Protocols for COVID+ residents
- Primary Care COVID + Order Set
- EMS Pre-Hospital Intervention

# Assisted Living Medical Director; Outbreak Management

- Pandemic specific benefits from medical direction
- Infection control policy creation and review
- Family reassurance that difficult changes were needed for safety
- Ordering and review of mandatory staff testing
- Guidance on quarantine procedures
- Ordering and guidance on resident testing



WHERE DO I FIND  
ONE OF THESE?





THE OHIO SOCIETY  
FOR POST-ACUTE AND  
LONG-TERM CARE MEDICINE

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# References & Resources

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# Thank You

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