

Vaccine Focused Short Piece Notes/Literature Review

1. **Title:** Menu of State LTCF Influenza Vaccination Laws

Organization: CDC

Summary: Flu vaccine coverage rates for healthcare workers in long-term care settings are often lower than in other healthcare facilities, such as hospitals and ambulatory care facilities. 24 states establish flu vaccination requirements for long-term care facility healthcare workers, and 32 states establish requirements for long-term care facility patients. 27 states require long-term care facilities to offer flu vaccination to long-term care facility patients and 23 states require long-term care facilities to ensure patients are vaccinated against flu. 29 states explicitly permit long-term care facility patients to be exempted from receiving flu vaccination for medical reasons, 13 states permit religious exemptions to their flu vaccination requirements for patients in long-term care facilities, and 27 states permit philosophical exemptions to their flu vaccination requirements for patients in long-term care facilities.

Relevance: Good for quick background on vaccine laws/protections/exemptions in relation to states with well established flu vaccine, can draw parallels for COVID vaccinations and talk about drawbacks of possible exemptions with effectiveness of COVID vaccine

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/publications/topic/menus/ltcinfluenza/index.html>

2. **Title:** Who Makes Decisions for Incapacitated Patients Who Have No Surrogate or Advance Directive?

Organization: AMA Journal of Ethics

Date: 7/2019

Summary: Unrepresented patients are those who have no surrogate or advance directive to guide medical decision making for them when they become incapacitated. . As recently as 2017, there were more than 70,000 unrepresented patients in the United States. However, some estimates suggest that the number may be well over 100,000 and possibly as high as 330,000. State laws and institutional policies attempt to solve the problem largely through 3 different approaches regarding the choice of decision maker: physician, ethics committee, and guardianship. Some states allow physicians to act as decision makers until a guardian can be appointed. However, it is interesting to note that 39 states do have laws that prohibit—explicitly, implicitly, or possibly—physicians from acting as a general surrogate. A collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to the problem of unrepresented patients, although imperfect, is preferable to a unilateral approach.

Relevance: Not specifically Alz/Dementia but relates in the fact that the patients lack informed consent/someone else is making healthcare related decisions. Would be good possible approach to take when combining with California approach on emergency plans with COVID

Link:

<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/who-makes-decisions-incapacitated-patients-who-have-no-surrogate-or-advance-directive/2019-07>

3. **Title:** When can nursing homes make decisions for 'incapacitated' residents? California court weighs in.

Organization: The Sacramento Bee

Date: 7/24/2019

Summary: A lawsuit, brought by California Advocates for Nursing Homes Reform, challenged the state's Department of Public Health over a statute in the state health code that allows nursing home staff to decide for incapacitated residents about ongoing medical treatment. The California 1st District Court of Appeal ruled Monday that the statute in its current state does deprive incapacitated residents of critical rights and does not include enough checks on nursing home staff. The decision ordered that written and oral notice must be given to residents, and that medical treatment can't proceed until residents are notified about their status as incapacitated and get a chance to oppose. The statute states now that except in emergency situations, the team that makes decisions for incapacitated patients must include a patient representative, and that representative must be unaffiliated with the nursing home, a doctor, and nurses.

Relevance: Provides a legal statute and framework behind medical decisions for incapacitated residents in nursing homes, could be applicable to NH residents in COVID times, drawback that it's solely California focused

Link: <https://www.sacbee.com/article233043447.html>

4. **Title:** Anticipating and Mitigating the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

Organization: The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry

Date: 4/18/2020

Summary: Increased demand on health systems may also result in the diversion of resources away from patients with chronic diseases, including those with ADRD. Hospitalized individuals with ADRD may be particularly affected because they are less able to monitor their care or advocate for themselves. Individuals with ADRD living in long-term care (LTC) ("nursing homes") face all the challenges of those in supportive living environments, and additional risks. Their higher dependence on caregivers and health care providers eliminates the possibility of physical distancing. Decreased nursing time has been shown to be associated with increased medical errors and adverse events in dementia

Relevance: Less relevant to vaccines but relevant to clinical care of Alz/Deme patients during COVID, gives you good understanding of risks of these patients in nursing homes and possible mitigation policies

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2020.04.010>

5. **Title:** COVID-19: Guidelines for Memory Care Professionals During the Pandemic

Organization: Alternatives for Seniors: Helping Seniors and Families Since 1992

Date: 6/30/2020

Summary: Almost 8% of adults aged 65 years and above have dementia, and these people are at higher risk of contracting the disease. Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia do not increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. However, the behavior

associated with dementia can increase risk. People with dementia might forget to wash their hands, cover their mouths, and keep a safe distance from other people. The Alzheimer's Foundation recommends not to raise any alarm on the virus and to limit what you say about the pandemic. Make sure to prepare emergency information and family contact information.

Relevance: Gives some guidance for COVID policies for memory care facilities, wasn't that helpful

Link: <https://www.alternativesforseniors.com/blog/covid-memory-care-guidelines/>

6. **Title:** New Study Shows 60 Percent of Alzheimer's Community Intends to Take New COVID-19 Vaccine When It Becomes Available

Organization: USAgainstAlzheimer's

Date: 9/28/2020

Summary: A new UsAgainstAlzheimer's A-LIST® survey of the Alzheimer's community shows that 60 percent of survey respondents intend to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available – nearly double the percentage of respondents in a recent national survey. However, doubts about a COVID-19 vaccine remain among the Alzheimer's community. One in 10 of respondents to the survey, taken September 3-9, said they would not take the vaccine, and 30 percent were unsure. Sixty-nine percent of caregivers with loved ones with Alzheimer's or another dementia in a long-term care community say they intend to request a COVID-19 vaccine for their loved one once a vaccine is available, citing a need for robust safety and efficacy data first.

Survey Methodology: The survey, taken September 3-9, 2020 by the UsAgainstAlzheimer's A-LIST®, had 905 responses overall from people living with Alzheimer's or another dementia, current and former caregivers, people with a significant likelihood of developing the disease, and those interested in brain health. Of the total respondents, 876 described their status. Current caregivers were the largest group with 231 responses. Of the 189 caregivers completing the survey, a subset of 29 respondents who said they had a loved one in an assisted living facility. 50 individuals with Alzheimer's disease or Mild Cognitive Impairment also took the survey.

Relevance: Gives you good idea of what's going on within Alz communities and why they are choosing/not choosing to vaccinate and who's making these decisions

Link:

<https://www.usagainstalzhaimers.org/press/new-study-shows-60-percent-alzheimers-community-intends-take-new-covid-19-vaccine-when-it>

General Facts:

Nursing homes in US: 15,600 (2016, CDC)

of people in US in NH: 1,300,000 (2015, CDC)

of people in US with Alz/deme: 5.8 million

Eighty percent of the 5.8 million are age 75 or older.

One in 10 people age 65 and older (10%) has Alzheimer's dementia.

By 2050, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's dementia may grow to a projected 13.8 million

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States.

Between 2000 and 2018, the number of deaths from Alzheimer's disease as recorded on death certificates has more than doubled, increasing 146%

% of long term care service users diagnosed with Alzheimers or other dementias:

Percent of adult day services center participants: 30.9% (2016)

Percent of residential care community residents: 41.9% (2016)

Percent of home health agency patients: 32.3% (2015)

Percent of hospice patients: 44.5% (2015)

Percent of nursing home residents : 47.8% (2016)

of people in US with alz/dem in nursing homes:

Close to two-thirds (64%) of all US nursing home residents have some type of cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease

of alz/dem hospitalized/died/infected COVID:

Beyond the staggering U.S. deaths caused directly by the novel coronavirus, more than 134,200 people have died from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia since March. That is 13,200 more U.S. deaths caused by dementia than expected, compared with previous years, according to an analysis of federal data by The Washington Post.

Politico: Deaths attributed to Alzheimer's disease and dementia rose to more than 20 percent above normal over the summer,

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/09/16/dementia-deaths-coronavirus-nursing-homes-416530>

Guardianship policies:

When this mental capacity is lost, incapacitated individuals operate in a legal limbo — without the ability to decide for themselves, but having nobody authorized to decide for them. In such a situation, the law has two mechanisms for empowering someone else to act in behalf of the incapacitated individual; appointing an attorney-in-fact or a guardian.

<https://www.parentgiving.com/elder-care/when-is-guardianship-appropriate/>

More than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias.A

Vaccine related policies/mandates:

Quite literally none, its more recommendations and mandates for staff but in terms of patient it varies aggressively, also you're dealing with exemptions

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7537350/>