June 23, 2020

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a consolidated recommendation for COVID-19 testing, including interim testing guidelines for nursing home residents and healthcare personnel. The recommendations compile and update previous CDC testing guidance.

According to the update, the term "baseline testing" will now be referred to as "initial testing", although the terms are interchangeable. The CDC also reorganized recommendations to address viral testing of healthcare personnel and residents, and viral testing in response to an outbreak. The CDC recommends nursing homes coordinate repeat testing in response to outbreaks with local and state health departments. Lastly, the CDC has clarified that it does not recommend facilities test the same individual more than once in a 24-hour period, and encourages clinicians to consider testing symptomatic residents for other causes of respiratory illness, such as influenza, in addition to testing for SARS-CoV-2.

The most recent, full CDC protocol for testing guidelines in nursing homes can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html

We are always available to discuss your concerns: (718) 408-8989 | www.ComplianceCG.com