



Norovirus in Skilled Nursing Facilities

Revised 8/11/2012



Presentation Overview

- Case file: *Joe's Story*
- Norovirus review
- Case file review





Case file: *Joe's Story*



Joe and his son Alex.





Joe cleaned up a lot of accidents.



**Joe wasn't feeling
too well.**





Joe had really bad diarrhea and vomiting. ⁷



Joe still went to work. He's a CNA at a SNF. ⁸



Rita helped Joe when he vomited at work. 9



Then, Rita went to help Sue.



12 hours later, Sue wasn't feeling so well.¹¹



Martha cleaned up many accidents.



Betty took out the dirty linen.



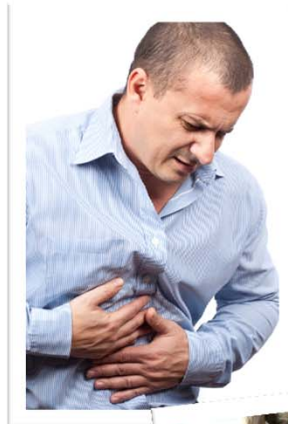
Linda spoke to her mom's doctor.



Dr. Smith and Rita see another patient.

Who got sick or could spread norovirus?

- 1) Joe
- 2) Rita
- 3) Sue
- 4) Sue's 2 roommates
- 5) Linda
- 6) Dr. Smith
- 7) Martha
- 8) Betty





Norovirus Review



How does norovirus affect healthcare facilities?

- 1 in 5 outbreaks in healthcare facilities are caused by norovirus
- Norovirus is the most common cause of outbreaks in SNFs
- Half of all food borne illness is caused by norovirus



Source: E. Rhinehart et al. (2012). *Frequency of outbreak investigations in US hospitals: Results of a national survey of infection preventionists*. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 40, 2-8.



What is norovirus illness?



- It's often incorrectly called the stomach flu
- Norovirus causes *viral gastroenteritis*
- *Gastroenteritis* means inflammation of the stomach and intestines



What are the symptoms of norovirus?



- Symptoms include:
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Stomach cramping



How does norovirus spread?

- Norovirus is found in feces and vomit
- It spreads by:
 - Eating contaminated food or water
 - Touching contaminated surfaces or objects
- Norovirus can stay in the air for up to 2 hours after forceful vomiting



Who is affected by norovirus?

- Anyone can get sick with norovirus
 - Patients
 - Visitors
 - Staff
- Dehydration is the main concern
- Norovirus is serious, especially for seniors



How can norovirus be prevented?

- Stay home if sick
- Wash hands correctly
 - Before and after seeing patients
 - After bathroom visits
 - After cleaning up feces or vomit
 - Before handling food



How can norovirus be prevented?

- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when cleaning up feces or vomit
 - Gloves
 - Surgical mask
 - Gown
- Clean surfaces more often
 - Bleach solution
 - EPA approved product



What should be done in case of a suspected outbreak?

- If you see a sudden increase in vomiting and diarrhea in your SNF
 - Tell your supervisor
 - Follow your SNFs policies and procedures



What should be done in case of a suspected outbreak?

- Your supervisor will decide whether to:
 - Assign staff to sick or healthy patients
 - Call the Public Health Department





Case file review





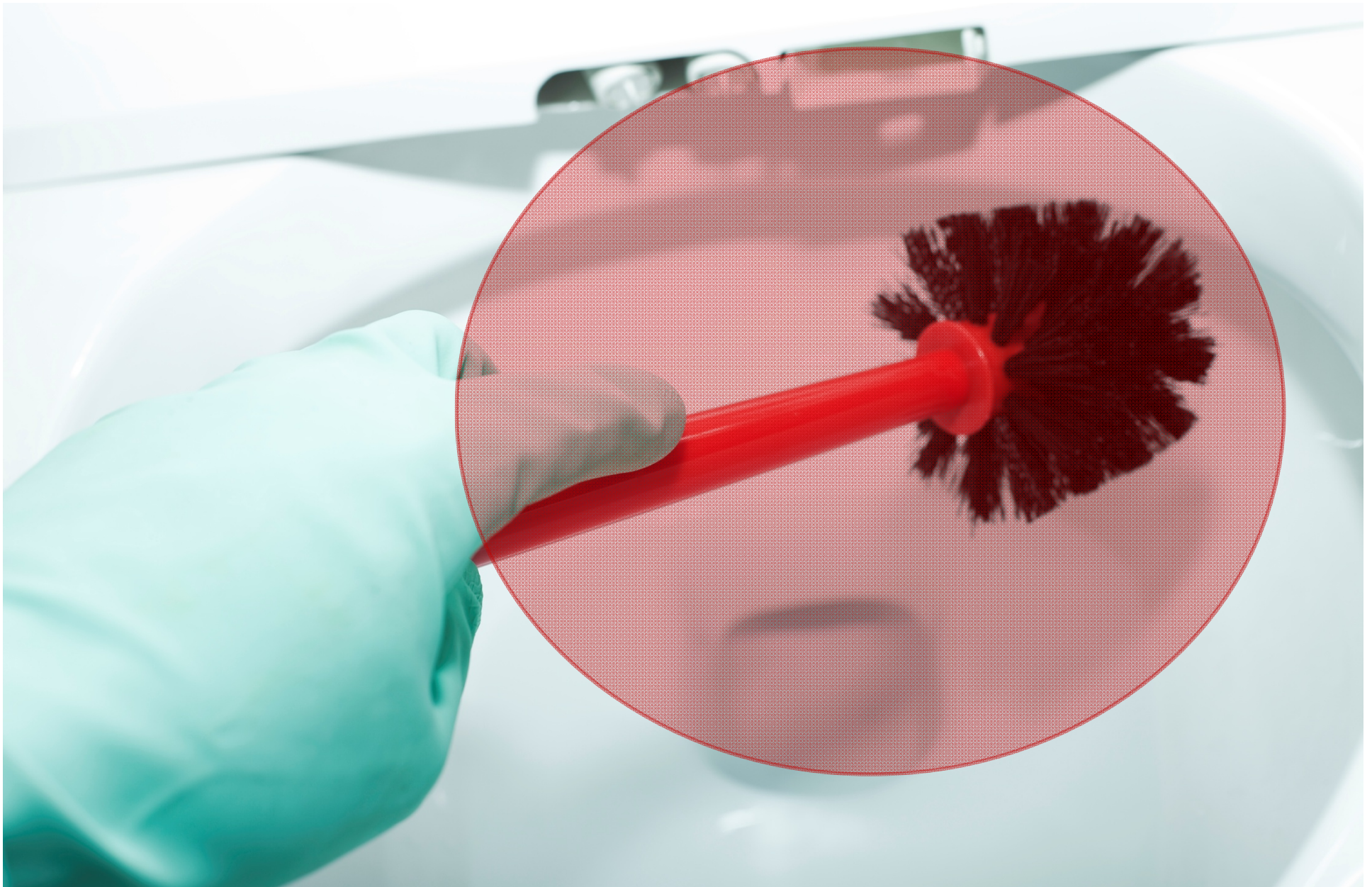
Stay home when sick.



Wash hands.



Wear personal protective equipment.³⁰



Clean facilities more often.



Report possible outbreaks to supervisor. ³²

Questions?



Where can I go for more information?

- [Control of Viral Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Long Term Care Facilities](#) - California Department of Health Services (12/06)
- [Norovirus Control Measures](#) - LA County Department of Public Health (Updated 12/1/06)
- CDC-Norovirus in HC Facilities Fact Sheet
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/id_norovirusFS.html
- Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_envoinfection.html

