ELEVATING BEST PRACTICES IN LTC (LONG TERM CARE) IN A CHANGING IPAC LANDSCAPE

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ABSTRACT

As a large operator of long-term care homes across Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba we recognized across all our homes, the need for Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) best practices. IPAC related supports and education became the top priority through the pandemic that has impacted health care settings across the globe. Building IPAC capacity and practices through policies, tools and education was only the first part of the equation. Sustaining high levels of IPAC practice and knowledge amidst the unprecedent global health care staffing crisis has been another challenge. Creating an IPAC "learning infrastructure" is the goal we set for ourselves to mitigate the risk posed by staff turnover. The health and safety of our residents depended on our ability to achieve this goal.

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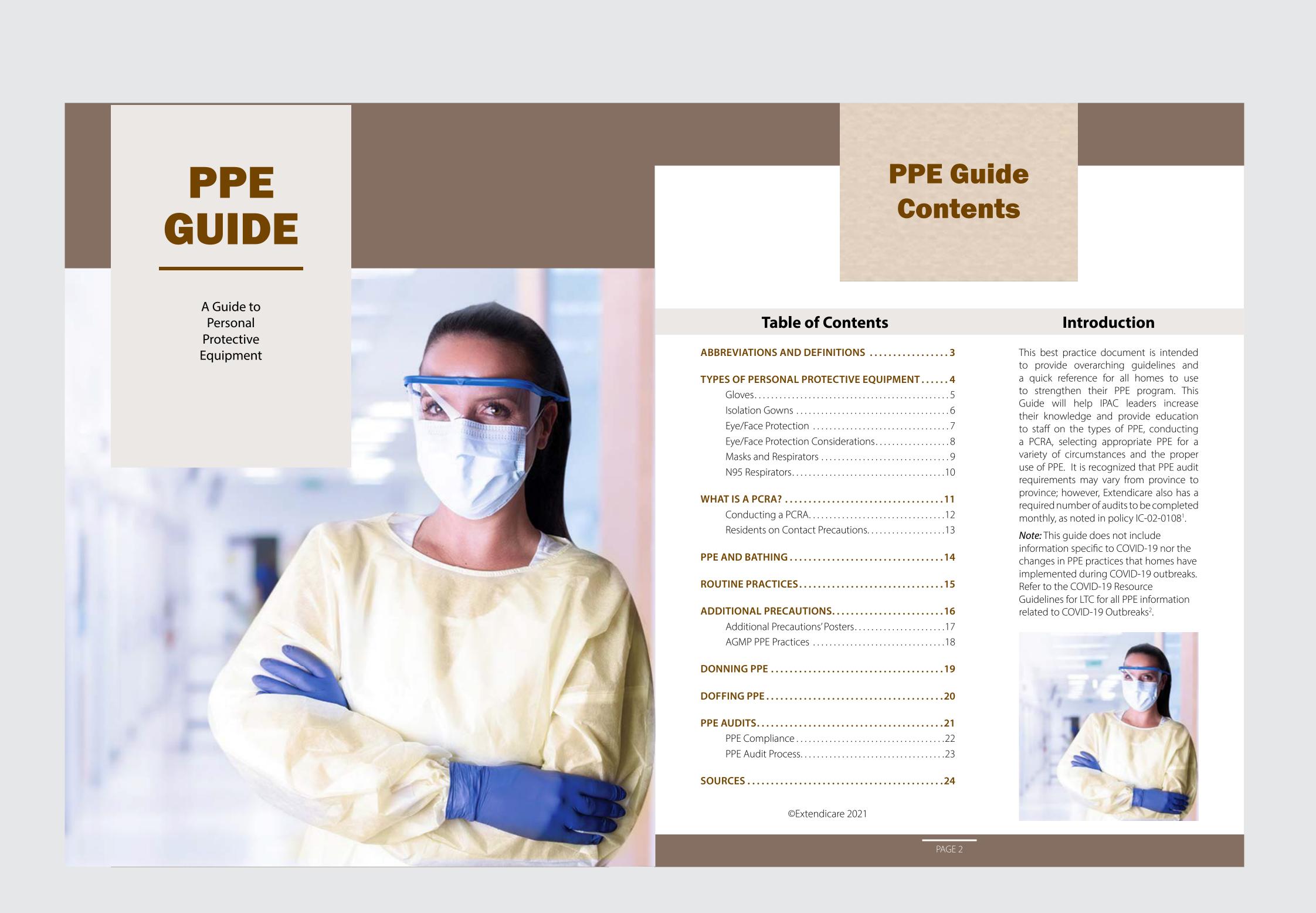
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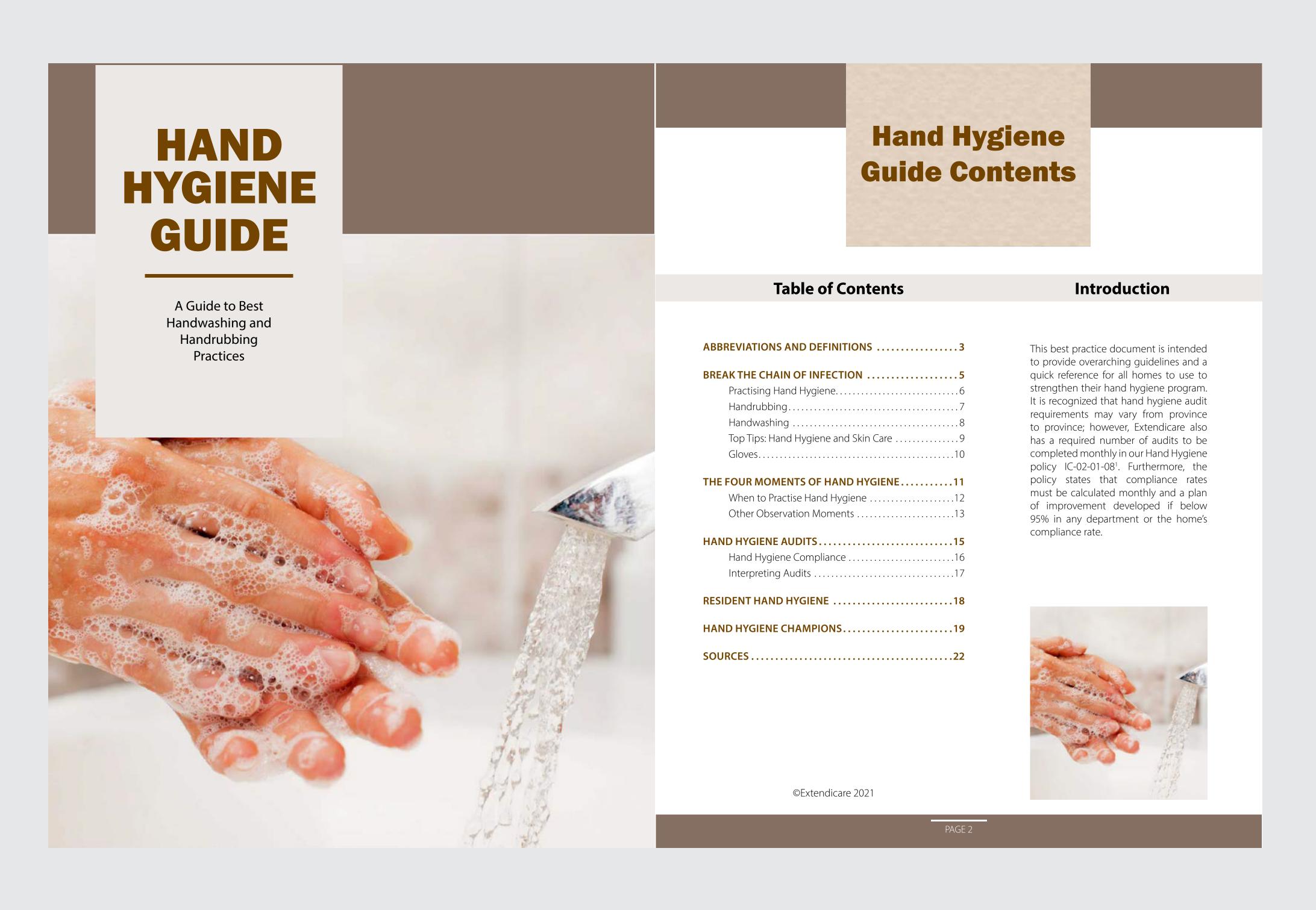
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Helping people lve better

A one-stop shop approach to accessing and sharing IPAC guidance and best practice information was developed. PPE, Cleaning and Disinfecting, Hand Hygiene and outbreak management handbooks were created providing best practice guidelines, public health guidance and policy in a centralized, printable location. Along with educating all IPAC leads across homes in a post-secondary IPAC certification course, the organization increased its capacity of centralized, specialized IPAC consultants four-fold. These IPAC specialists provided homes with expertise and coaching, reinforcement, and the ability to demonstrate skills and behaviors onsite. An IPAC Champion program was launched in Sept 2022 to establish local IPAC experts at the home level. IPAC champions were equipped with additional online and in-person education, recognized by champion pins for easy identification by other team members.

- A smaller group seems to have worked out positively. Information well received and helpful — thank you
- It was nice having a small group. Felt comfortable asking questions and getting good feedback
- Great session. Thank you all! Covered everything needed. I enjoyed the in person for discussions.
- It was a wonderful opportunity of participate in the education session. Looking forward to more
- Great guides and very informative
- Only wish they had been available sooner!