

Fall 2010

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14th Annual Bug Day

The NWOICN is participating in the 14th Annual Bug Day on October 19, 2010 hosted by Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg. This education day is available by videoconference. If you would like to attend this education day at the NWOICN office please contact Brandy Ponka by email ponkab@tbh.net.



If you would like to register your own videoconference equipment please contact Ontario Telemedicine Network at 1-888-346-6784 and quote Request ID 12809706.



It's Not too Late to Celebrate!

"The keys to success [in Infection Prevention and Control] are knowledgeable health care workers, an informed public, and an awareness that infection control is everyone's business." (CHICA-Canada IC Week Proclamation, 1989)

Participating in *Infection Control Week (ICW)* provides organizations the opportunity to highlight Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) efforts and raise the profile of infection control. ICW is an opportunity to have fun while educating staff and community members about the importance of infection control.

If you aren't ready for ICW at your organization, visit the Regional Infection Control Network website at www.ricn.on.ca for activities and tools that are ready-to-use!

- Routine Practices and Additional Precautions pre-recorded education session for front-line staff;
- Antibiotic Resistant Organisms pre-recorded education session for front-line staff;
- Refreshed idea primer and activity package (puzzles, scavenger hunt, activity templates);
- Electronic games for environmental and dietary services staff ;
- Electronic game about influenza for use with all staff;
- Bug of the Month fact sheets for use over the next 12 months.



A New Home & New Look for the Regional Infection Control Networks (RICN)

The RICN have a new home with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)!

You may have noticed the OAHPP logo alongside the RICN logo on letters and newsletters such as this one over the past few months. The transition to the OAHPP means that the important work of the RICNs at the local level will be part of a coordinated and integrated provincial strategy.

Environmental Cleaning Toolkits Now Available

The *Environmental Cleaning Best Practices Educational Toolkit* is now ready for distribution to all healthcare facilities and public health units across the province. This toolkit is a resource to assist those involved in the education and training of Environmental Services staff on best practices for environmental cleaning in health care facilities. Each toolkit consists of:

- Six DVD learning modules reflective of the content in the PIDAC best practices document for environmental cleaning;
- A DVD with seven sample cleaning procedures;
- Power point presentations with speaker notes that allow instructors to modify the presentations;
- A leader's guide to assist the instructor in planning education sessions;
- Summary sheets as handouts;
- Quizzes, posters and other useful tools.

Information sessions on the toolkit will be held by videoconference through the Ontario Hospital Association on **October 28th and November 3rd. Save the date!**



New ONTARIO REGULATION 79/10 made under the LONG-TERM CARE HOMES ACT, 2007

On July 1st, 2010, the new Long-Term care Homes Act, 2007 was proclaimed. Along with this, the Ontario Regulation, 79/10 section 229, was introduced. This replaces the "old standards" that governed Long-Term Care (LTC). The new Act will replace the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act, the Nursing Homes Act, and the Charitable Institutions Act to become the single legislative authority over LTC Homes. The impact for LTC Homes with regard to the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) program is that the new Regulations state that there must be a staff member designated to co-ordinate the program and they must have education and experience in IPAC practices, including the following:

- Infectious diseases;
- Cleaning and Disinfection;
- Data Collection and trend analysis;
- Reporting Protocols;
- Outbreak Management.

Other aspects of these revisions include: daily, required activities, additional IPAC requirements such as surveillance, hand hygiene program, immunization and screening measures, foot care and nail care, skin and wound care, housekeeping and training. We have posted to the RICN website a summary of the changes titled '*The Long Term Care Homes Act: Key IPAC Points*' for your reference. It can be found at www.ricn.on.ca The new Long-Term Care Homes Act is available through E-laws at the link below http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2010/elaws_src_regs_r10079_e.htm

The Long-Term Care Homes Act: Key IPAC Points

http://www.elaws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2010/elaws_src_regs_r10079_e.htm

What does the Long Term Care Homes Act say about Infection Prevention and Control Programs ?

There shall be an Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Program (2007, c. 8, s. 86 (1)).

It must include

- daily monitoring to detect the presence of infection in residents of the long-term care home
- measures to prevent the transmission of infections. 2007, c. 8, s. 86 (2)
- the program and its content must comply with any standards and requirements, including required
- outcomes, provided for in the regulations. 2007, c. 8, s. 86 (3)

Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007 – O. Reg. 79/10

Every licensee of a long-term care home shall ensure that the infection prevention and control program required under subsection 86 (1) of the Act complies with the requirements of this section. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (1).

- there is an interdisciplinary team approach in the co-ordination and implementation of the program
- the interdisciplinary team that co-ordinates and implements the program meets at least quarterly
- the local medical officer of health is invited to the meeting
- the program is evaluated and updated at least annually in accordance with evidence-based practices and, if there are none, in accordance with prevailing practices
- a written record is kept relating to each evaluation under clause (d) that includes the date of the evaluation, the names of the persons who participated in the evaluation, a summary of the changes made and the date that those changes were implemented. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (2)
- There is a designated staff member to coordinate the program who has education and experience in Infection prevention and control practices (including infectious diseases, cleaning and disinfection, data collection and trend analysis, reporting protocols and outbreak management [O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (3)])
- All staff participate in the implementation of the program [O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (4)]

Daily Activities (required each shift)

- Monitor symptoms indicating the presence of infection in residents in accordance with evidence-based practices and, if there are none, in accordance with prevailing practices
- Record symptoms and take immediate action is taken as required. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (5)
- Daily analysis of the information gathered under subsection (5) to detect the presence of infection. [O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (6)]

Additional IPAC Program Requirements

- Review at least once a month the information gathered under subsection 5 to detect the presence of infection and trends, for the purpose of reducing the incidence of infection and outbreaks. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (6)
- implement any surveillance protocols given by the Director for a particular communicable disease. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (7)
- Have an outbreak management system for detecting, managing, and controlling infectious disease outbreaks, including: defined staff responsibilities, reporting protocols based on requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, communication plans, protocols for receiving and responding to health alerts; and a written plan for responding to infectious disease outbreaks. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (8)

The Long-Term Care Homes Act: Key IPAC Points

What does the Long term Care homes Act say about Infection Prevention and Control Programs

Hand Hygiene Program

- ensure there is a hand hygiene program in accordance with evidence-based practices and, if there are none, in accordance with prevailing practices, and with access to point-of-care hand hygiene agents. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (9).

Immunization and Screening Measures

- Each resident admitted to the home must be screened for tuberculosis within 14 days of admission unless the resident has already been screened at some time in the 90 days prior to admission and the documented results of this screening are available to the licensee.
- Residents must be offered immunization against influenza at the appropriate time each year.
- Residents must be offered immunizations against pneumococcus, tetanus and diphtheria in accordance with the publicly funded immunization schedules posted on the Ministry website.
- Staff is screened for tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in accordance with evidence-based practices and, if there are none, in accordance with prevailing practices.
- There must be a staff immunization program in accordance with evidence-based practices and, if there are none, in accordance with prevailing practices. O. Reg. 79/10, s. 229 (10).

Foot care and nail care

Every licensee of a long-term care home shall ensure that each resident of the home receives preventive and basic foot care services, including the cutting of toenails, to ensure comfort and prevent infection

Skin and wound care

The skin and wound care program must, at a minimum, provide for the following:

- The provision of routine skin care to maintain skin integrity and prevent wounds.
- Strategies to promote resident comfort and mobility and promote the prevention of infection, including the monitoring of residents.
- shall ensure that a resident exhibiting altered skin integrity, including skin breakdown, pressure ulcers, skin tears or wounds receives immediate treatment and interventions to reduce or relieve pain, promote healing, and prevent infection, as required

Housekeeping

- shall ensure that procedures are developed and implemented for cleaning and disinfection of resident care equipment, such as whirlpools, tubs, shower chairs, and lift chairs and supplies and devices, including personal assistance services, devices, assistive aids, and positioning aids and contact surfaces, using hospital grade disinfectant and in accordance with manufacturer's specifications;

Training [required under paragraph 9 of subsection 76 (2) and subsection 76 (4)] includes:

- hand hygiene;
- modes of infection transmission;
- cleaning and disinfection practices; and
- use of personal protective equipment

Toronto Invasive Bacterial Diseases Network (TIBDN) Education Days

The NWOICN is pleased to announce that the TIBDN is hosting two Education Days. This is a series of interesting and informative talks on Influenza and Group A Strep. This year's education days are as follows:

"TIBDN Influenza Day"

Date: November 19, 2010 (Fri)-
Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm EST
Location: Central Public Health Lab Auditorium
81 Resources Road
Toronto, ON M9P 3T1



"3rd Annual Cathy Mulvale, GAS Lecture"

Date: November 25, 2010 (Thurs) –
Time: 8:30 am – 1:30 pm EST
Location: Mount Sinai Hospital Auditorium
600 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 1X5

The days are open to all microbiology, infection control, public health, and infectious diseases staff - **everyone is welcome**. There is no registration fee for these events. These will be available through Ontario Telemedicine Network via videoconference. *More information to follow.*

If you would like to attend these sessions at the NWOICN office, please contact Brandy Ponka or Carrie Pettit by email ponkab@tbh.net pettitc@tbh.net or phone (807) 683-1755 to register.

TB: What we know...and what lies below conference

Monday and Tuesday, November 15 & 16, 2010, Toronto, Ontario. For registration information email: registration@eventives.ca. For more information on Travel Grants contact Menn Biagtan, by email biagtan@bc.lung.ca.



Environmental Cleaning Toolkit Rollout

The RICNs along with the 2 housekeeping associations in Ontario have developed a Toolkit to assist acute care, and long term care and other healthcare settings to implement the PIDAC Environmental Cleaning Best Practices document. Each facility will be receiving 2 copies of the toolkits.

Pat Piaskowski, Network Coordinator and Karen Clinker, Infection Control Consultant will be going on the road to present train-the-trainer sessions for the Environmental Cleaning Toolkit in **October 2010**. They will be rolling out the document throughout Northwestern Ontario in selected facilities. Invited attendees are persons involved in Environmental Services as well as infection control professionals (ICPs) and public health.



Upcoming Webber Teleclasses



- **October 5, 2010:** #1 Emerging Infectious Diseases-Infection Control Challenges; # 2 A National Approach to HAIs-Where No One Has Gone Before. Speaker # 1: Prof Paul Anantharajah Tambyah, University of Singapore, Speaker # 2: Prof Chris Baggoley, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- **October 13, 2010:** Infection Control in the Tropics Claire Boardman, VICNISS, Australia
- **October 21, 2010:** Methods of Monitoring Hand Hygiene Frequency and Compliance Dr. John Boyce, Hospital of St Raphael
- **October 21, 2010:** Implementing Mandatory Vaccination for Health care Workers Dr. Keith Woeltje, Washington University School of Medicine
- **October 28, 2010:** Implementing Mandatory Vaccination for Healthcare Workers. Speaker: Dr. Keith Woeltje, Washington University School of Medicine
- **November 4, 2010:** Using Social Marketing to Prevent Healthcare Associated Infection. Speaker: Dr. Hugh Sax, University of Geneva Hospitals, Switzerland
- **November 9, 2010:** Why are Noroviruses Such Successful Pathogens in Healthcare Settings? Speaker: Dr. Christine Moe, Emory University
- **November 18, 2010:** Infection Prevention Strategies in the Home Care Setting. Speaker: Mary McGoldrick, Home Health Systems Inc.

Upcoming NWOICN Lunch & Learns

- October 21, 2010 Norovirus
- November 18, 2010 UTIs & ESBL
- December 16, 2010 Monitoring Your Sterile Process for Foot Care
- January 13, 2011 Ministry of Labour IPAC consultant role
- February 17, 2011 Micro Session Gram Positives and Negatives
- March 17, 2011 Using Glow Germ for Auditing Construction
- April 21, 2011 Nursing Week & IC
- May 19, 2011 Legionnaire's
- June 16, 2011 IPAC Auditing
- September 15, 2011 Group A Strep
- October 20, 2011 Infection Control in the OR
- November 17, 2011 Hepatitis B and HIV
- December 15, 2011

For more information on these lunch and learns and to register your site contact Brandy Ponka ponkab@tbh.net or Carrie Pettit at pettitc@tbh.net. All our Lunch & Learns are available by videoconference, webcasting and teleconference.



For more information go to www.webbertraining.com

This newsletter was prepared by a collaborative effort of the RICNs and this Network.

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Northwestern Ontario

*Giving Health
 a Helping Hand*