

Winter 2011

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Environmental Cleaning Project Update

There are a number of activities in the works to provide continuing support for implementation of environmental cleaning best practices and the toolkit.

- Save the Date: On **January 20th** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., the RICNs will be facilitating a live web cast and videoconference in collaboration with OHHA and CAEM. Come and hear about some of the success stories of your colleagues and share your own.
- Watch for an environmental cleaning discussion forum on the RICN website, where you will be able to post your questions
- 8 generic policies/procedures have been developed and will be posted shortly on the RICN website. Notification will go out through OHHA, CAEM and the RICNs.

Stay tuned!



Abstract Thinking

can also awaken ideas of your own. So, why not share your ideas and experiences too? Submitting an abstract is not as daunting as you might think!

Conferences held every year provide a great forum to tell your story and contribute to the improvement of everyone's IPAC knowledge. For a list of IPAC conferences visit the RICN or the CHICA website, once you have found one that's of interest search the website for abstract details. An important date to note as you consider drafting your own abstract is the deadline for abstract submissions.

So how do you go about putting an abstract together?

First brainstorm.... Perhaps this will be the easiest part of the process. Think about the work that you could feature at your organization – have you taken a unique approach to a common challenge? Have you created a resource for your staff that makes it easier for them to follow IPAC best practice? Have you done any research at your organization?

Next, determine where your abstract fits. For example, abstracts at CHICA's conference are one of two formats 1) scientific research findings, or outbreak investigations where appropriate comparisons or analyses of data have been performed or 2) abstracts involving the description of educational or performance improvement programs, observations, or other infection prevention activities, including prevention models or methods.

Then write your abstract. On the conference website you will find the specific headings and information that your abstract needs to address. Be sure to complete each requirement thoroughly while staying within the word limit and ask a colleague to review your abstract before you send it off. Many conferences accept on-line abstract submissions and confirm receipt of your submission.

Hopefully, this brief overview has you thinking about what you can share with conference participants. We all have a lot of knowledge and experience to contribute; ultimately, making all of our efforts more effective!

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Abstract Submission Dates for 2011

- CHICA—Canada National Education Conference, *February 18, 2011*
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) Educational Conference, *January 14, 2011*
- Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) Educational Conference - Submission for Late-Breaking abstracts *January 7—30, 2011*



Ask the Expert—Dr. Giulio DiDiodato, North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network, Medical Coordinator

Question: I have been hearing more about ESBLs recently. What are they exactly?

Answer: Extended-spectrum β -lactamase producing microorganisms (ESBL) were historically defined as a group of bacterial genetic determinants that conferred resistance to third generation cephalosporins and monobactams. ESBLs are found in gram-negative bacteria (GNB), most commonly in the *Enterobacteriaceae* family (e.g.,

Escherichia coli, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*), and in non-fermentative GNB (e.g., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*). ESBL-producing bacteria have emerged as a growing public health concern for several reasons. First, their prevalence is increasing all over the world in all populations, both in hospitals and in community-settings, making the treatment of previously responsive infections, such as urinary tract infections, more difficult. Second, the spectrum of antimicrobial resistance in ESBL-producing bacteria continues to broaden, with many bacteria now demonstrating multidrug resistance (MDR) to aminoglycosides, quinolones and carbapenems (e.g., New Delhi Metallo- β -lactamase-*E. coli* (NDM-*E.coli*), or *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase-*Klebsiella pneumoniae* (KPC-*K. pneumoniae*). Third and most important, there are currently no new antimicrobials either in pharmaceutical development or awaiting governmental approval that are effective against these emerging pathogens, resulting in very limited treatment options for affected patients. The best strategy to combat the spread of ESBL-producing bacteria among patients in an endemic setting is to practice excellent hand hygiene and antimicrobial stewardship. The role of contact isolation and active surveillance in an endemic setting may also help limit the spread of these pathogens.



New Resources

Public Health Agency of Canada, 2011

- Essential Resources for Effective Infection Prevention and Control Programs. A matter of Patient Safety: Discussion Paper
- Guidance: Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Healthcare Workers in All Healthcare Settings—Carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative Bacilli

Accreditation Canada

- 2010 Canadian Health Accreditation Report: Through the Lens of Qmentum—Exploring the Connection between Patient Safety and Quality of Worklife

Antibiotic Awareness Day, Canada (website)

- Resources, Information & Activities that support Antibiotic Stewardship in the hospital and the community

Use your favourite search engine to find them all on-line.



Save the Date!!

**For the CHICA Conference
Held in Toronto, May 28 - June 2**

Preconference Day

**Infection Prevention and Control Boot
Camp for Healthcare Workers**

I'm Not an ICP but

Sometimes They Make Me Do It!

Participate in a fun and interactive day all about infection prevention and control.

Date: Monday, May 30, 2011

Location: Sheraton Center Toronto

Registration: **\$50.00 plus HST** (includes Lunch and Refreshments)

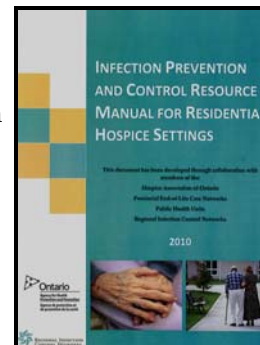
\$75.00 plus HST after April 15

Visit the CHICA website at

www.chica.org for more information.

**Infection Prevention and Control
Resource for Hospice Settings**

This resource provides current and practical IPAC information designed to ensure a consistent approach to infection prevention and control and reduce the risk of palliative care residents acquiring and spreading infections in the residential hospice setting. A print copy of this resource will be distributed to all residential hospice settings but is also available for download on the RICN website.



Environmental Cleaning Toolkit Train-the-Trainer Sessions

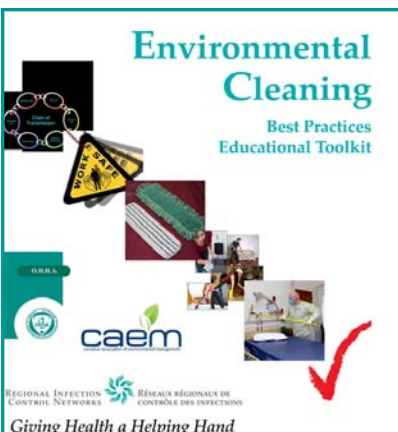
Over the last several years, the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has developed and distributed a number of Best Practice (BP) documents addressing various aspects of infection prevention and control practice across the health care continuum.

More recently, PIDAC has developed a Best Practice document on Environmental Cleaning. The Environmental Cleaning Educational Toolkit was developed jointly by the Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs), the Canadian Association for Environmental Management (CAEM) and the Ontario Healthcare Housekeepers Association (OHHA).

These sessions provided information on this Environmental Cleaning Educational Toolkit. This toolkit has been designed to assist Environmental Managers and staff to work with the Infection Prevention and Control professionals in their organization to ensure that together, all are working towards best practices for environmental cleaning.

Karen Clinker, Network Consultant and Pat Piaskowski, Network Coordinator went out to the region during October to meet with Environmental Services and ICPs in Acute care and Long-Term Care facilities east and west of Thunder Bay to present a train the trainer session on the new *Environmental Cleaning toolkit* (produced by the RICNs along with Ontario's two housekeeping associations).

This toolkit will assist facilities in meeting the PIDAC environmental cleaning best practices. Each facility received two copies of the toolkit!



The NWOICN also participated in two provincial videoconferences for these toolkits which took place on Oct 28 and Nov 3, 2010

Visibility of Hospital Cleaners Affects Perceptions of Hygiene

Research presented at the Infection Prevention Society Conference in the UK on September 19th, found that staff personal hygiene, outsourced cleaning contracts and service users not knowing where to complain were factors the public considers when asked to rate hospital cleanliness.



We often like to think there are big differences between countries when it comes to issues affecting healthcare, but the issues are often very similar. Folks in Canada should sit up and pay attention to these findings and possible interventions.



College of Nurses of Ontario Standards

College of Nurses of Ontario mandates that all nurses review two CNO standards for 2011 as part of the ongoing Quality Assurance program.

The 2011 practice documents are:

1. Documentation
2. Infection Prevention and Control

For more information go to www.cno.org

INFLUENZA.....Influenza Links and Resources

Mandatory Flu Vaccination for HCWs - Are We Ready to Take This Step?

In a recent survey of 1,326 infectious diseases specialists who are part of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) almost 90 percent of respondents said they believed that influenza vaccination should be required for all healthcare workers ([Polgreen, et al., 2010](#)).



Seventy-four percent said they believed healthcare worker influenza vaccination rates should be reported publicly as a measure of patient safety.

In Ontario, healthcare facilities report their flu immunization rates to Public Health but not to the public.

To see what one of our local experts had to say about immunization, go to <http://www.idologist.com/Blog/> (Scroll to H1N1 - My Take).

Flu Vaccine During Pregnancy Protects Moms and Babies



While flu shots protect pregnant women, they also protect their newborn babies, new research suggests. Babies whose mothers were vaccinated during pregnancy had a 41 percent lower risk of developing a flu infection and a 39 percent lower risk of hospitalization from flu or respiratory illness, compared to babies whose mothers were not vaccinated, according to a study published in the [Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine](#). "Although influenza vaccination is recommended for pregnant women to reduce their risk of influenza complications, these findings provide support for the added benefit of protecting infants from influenza virus infection up to six months," wrote study

Interesting Association Between Heart Attack Prevention and Influenza Vaccine Uptake

Recent publications in the CMAJ (Siriwardena A et al) and Lancet (Warren-Gash C et al) demonstrate a 19% reduction in acute myocardial infarction (MI) when flu vaccine has been received in the previous year, and 20% when given within the flu season in a UK study that examined 16,012 patients over 40 with their first acute MI and matched against 62,694 controls. This would suggest an additional reason to encourage all those with underlying cardiovascular disease or risk



WEBSITE LINKS AND RESOURCES

- http://www.chica.org/links_flu.html
- <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
- <http://immunize.cpha.ca/en/events/influenza-imm-campaign.aspx>
- <http://www.path.org/vaccineresources/influenza.php>
- http://www.who.int/vaccine_research/diseases/ari/en/index1.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Happy Retirement!

Kay Cranston, Infection Control Coordinator at Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre retired as of December 31, 2010 after more than 5 years in the IPAC department and over 30 years of dedicated service to TBRHSC and the Regional Cancer Centre. Kay had attained her CIC designation. Kay has also participated as a member of the previous NWOICN Steering Committee and as a member of CHICA-NWO. We wish her all the best in this new phase of her life!

Brandy Ponka Welcomes a New Addition!

NWOICN wishes Brandy Ponka all the best with her newest daughter Macye who was born on December 5th, 2010. Carrie Pettit will be replacing Brandy while she is on her maternity leave.

Thank you!

NWOICN says thank you to Dr. Greg Gamble who acted as Medical Coordinator for NWOICN until June 30, 2010. Greg was a member of our steering committee as well as a key participant in IPAC activities across our region.



Infection Control Today Virtual Event February 15-16, 2011

Last year's ICT Virtual Event drew more than **5,400** participants and now, it's returning to your desktop! No travel. No registration fees. Join thousands of your colleagues for two days of thought-provoking discussions. Don't miss this unique education opportunity - **ALL ONLINE, ALL FOR FREE!**

The ICT Virtual Event includes:

- Two days of presentations conducted by leading experts in the industry.
- Opportunity to earn FREE CEUs.
- Networking with industry professionals including infection control practitioners, nurses, managers, supervisors and much more!
- Resource center to download valuable information such as white papers, presentations, brochures and fact sheets.
- Exhibit Hall filled with suppliers of innovative products and services.
- Convenience and comfort from your home or office.
- No travel or registration costs.

DATES: February 15-16, 2011

TIME: 7:30 am-5:00 pm MST
9:30 am-7:00 pm EST

COST: FREE

Visit the [ICT Virtual Event](#) website for complete information.

Upcoming NWOICN Lunch & Learns

- February 17, 2011 Micro Session Gram Positives & 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 Carrie Pettit at pettitt@tbh.net. All our Lunch & Learns are available by videoconference, webcasting and

WEBBER TELECLASSES FOR LTC

WWW.WEBBERTRAINING.COM

2011 Teleclass Education Lecture Series for long term care homes, please contact ricn@oahpp.ca for information on registrations

Clostridium difficile: A Superbug Under the Microscope

Friday, March 4, 2011 – Toronto

Presented by the Ontario Hospital Association

To view the brochure or to register for this conference visit; <http://www.oha.com/Education/Pages/CalendarofEventDetails.aspx?eventid=EP310>

Long Term Care Home Act Education Series

Education sessions have been developed to address the LTC Homes Act, 2007 and the Ontario Regulation's Education requirements.

The series is available to ICP's working in Long Term Care Facilities via Videoconference and webcasting.

All sessions will be held from 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM EST (12:30 PM – 1:30 PM CST)

- **January 11, 2011** Introduction to the LTCH Act Education Series - Isabelle Langman
- **January 18, 2011** Health care acquired infections in LTC- surveillance, analysis and reporting – Pat Piaskowski
- **January 25, 2011** Microbiology- Laboratory Testing and Specimen Collection - Sue Cooper
- **February 1, 2011** Routine Practices and Additional Precautions- Chain of Transmission - Wendy Beauparlant
- **February 8, 2011** Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment - Angela MacAlpine
- **February 15, 2011** Environmental Cleaning and Construction and Renovation - Karen Clinker and Theo Torrie
- **February 22, 2011** Outbreak Management – Leah Vanderploeg and Jonathon Bouma
- **March 1, 2011** IPAC and Occupational Health – Dr. Maureen Cividino

Handouts and Evaluation Forms are available at: <http://ricn.on.ca/calendars408.php>

If you missed the first session(s) you can view the archived webcast on the OTN website archives and then submit the test and evaluation to get credits.

Persons attending or viewing all eight sessions and submitting the test and evaluation for each session will receive a certificate of attendance after completion!"

If you have any questions, contact Carrie Pettit at pettitt@tbh.net

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*