

Spring/Summer 2011

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The *Just Clean Your Hands* Movement Continues!

Supporting the Just Clean Your Hands (JCYHs) in Long Term Care Homes (LTCHs) program has been a high priority for the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) and its Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs). In January of this year,

the OAHPP and the RICNs received short-term funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to initiate a project aimed at providing one-on-one coaching to each LTCH in Ontario.

The goal of the project is to help LTCHs with their Just Clean Your Hands implementation by having coaches visit each home and work with staff designated as JCYH Champions to identify barriers to implementation, and create solutions that facilitate this program and reinforce the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene.

The JCYHs Coaching Project involves:

- Conducting a pre-visit telephone survey to assess the stage of JCYHs implementation and help coaches identify the supports needed.
- A scheduled visit where the JCYHs coach may spend up to a full day in the LTCH providing assistance and advice to staff.
- Development of an evaluation framework to help us assess how useful the coaching was to LTCHs.

JCYHs coaches have been busy, and as of March 10th, have completed 94% of the pre-visit surveys - reaching more than 500 LTCHs in Ontario. They have also completed more than 55% of the on-site visits and we have been receiving wonderful feedback from many of the homes about the usefulness of the visits.

Stay tuned to your local RICN communications for our final report.



Just Clean Your Hands LTC: Visiting Homes

Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network (NWOICN) was able to provide coaching visits to several long term care homes in the region.

NWOICN would like to thank the Long Term Care Homes that participated in this project and a special thanks to our coaches: Cynthia McKinnon, Pat Piaskowski and Karen Clinker.

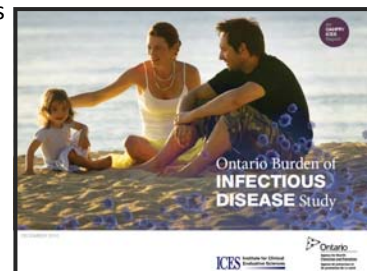
If your home did not receive a visit but would like to receive one, please contact the Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network office at 807-683-1744 or toll free at 1-866-706-7426.

The Ontario Burden of Infectious Disease Study (ONBOIDS)

Did you know each year in Ontario, there are over 7 million infectious disease episodes and nearly 4900 associated deaths? Or that the 5 most burdensome infections include Hep C, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, HPV, Hepatitis B and *Escherichia coli*?

Over the past decade, infectious diseases have regained prominence in Ontario, with outbreaks of *E. coli* O157:H7, West Nile virus, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and pandemic H1N1 influenza. The Ontario Burden of Infectious Disease Study (ONBOIDS) conducted by OAHPP and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies (ICES) provides a current assessment of the mortality and morbidity of infectious disease in Ontario. The study's objectives were to determine the relative contributions of select infectious diseases to the overall burden of infectious diseases in Ontario; inform priority setting, planning and decision-making; establish a baseline for future evaluations of public health interventions; and to identify strengths and weaknesses of existing infectious disease data in Ontario.

The ONBOID Study is available on-line at <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/reports.html>.





Ask the Expert, Colleen Nisbet

North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network, Coordinator

Question? I put a lot of effort into writing Policies & Procedures (P&P) for Infection Control but find that they aren't taken notice of. What can I do to get staff to realize...these are important!

Answer: This is a common issue and one that we hear about frequently. Effecting positive change in any organization is challenging!

We often make two suggestions that help to get the ball rolling:

First of all, gather together a small group of folks in your organization (ideally, a mix of decision makers and professional staff). Set a time limit (perhaps 2 hours) and conduct a critical review of the current process for P&P development. Avoid discussing the actual content of the documents and focus on the *process*, that is, how do these P&P come into being? Are there steps in your process that are done extremely well while other steps are falling short? Perhaps your P&P are well researched and written but poorly disseminated and promoted among employees. Others maybe well communicated and understood by staff but contain procedures that are impractical and sometimes even impossible to implement. Outdated policy and procedures also quickly become problematic. When these situations happen on a frequent basis the interest in positive change through policy development definitely wanes.

In addition to identifying areas of improvement, the critical review process can be a means of support (and even inspiration) for your colleagues toward positive change. If you are unsure about conducting a "critical review" there are checklists available that are very helpful.

Second, take advantage of the experiences of others. Are you aware of colleagues outside of your organization that seem to do a great job of P&P implementation? Ask about their process—most organizations appreciate the positive feedback and will share their experience and strategy with you.

Alternatively, there are experts in this field that have written some very practical and informative books on P&P development, implementation and evaluation. Two books that share good advice are "7 Steps to Better Written Polices and Procedures" and "Achieving 100% Compliance of Polices and Procedures" both written by Stephen Page.

Environmental Cleaning Discussion Forum



Do you have an environmental cleaning question or an answer to share?

The Environmental Cleaning Discussion Forum is now live on the RICN website in both English and French. The Discussion Forum provides a place to post questions and spark discussion with Environmental Services colleagues.

Check out www.ricn.on.ca for the Environmental Services Discussion Forum and new resources such as sample policies and procedures! The link to this discussion forum is posted on the main RICN page.

Just Clean Your Hands Tool

The LTC Hand Hygiene Observation and Analysis Tool is now available at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/handhygiene/lтч/implementation.aspx>

Scroll down to evaluation tools. Save the file to your desktop or hard drive. Please be sure to print and read the instructions CAREFULLY before using the tool.

Lots of Great Videos for IPAC—Fun, Informative and Inspiring!

Hand Hygiene: Brant Docs Rock for Hand Hygiene <http://www.thespec.com/news/ontario/article/510511--brant-docs-rock-for-clean-hands>

Hand Hygiene video in this Month's New England Journal of Medicine: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMvcm0903599?query=TOC&>

Hand Hygiene in India: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdpd3roZiYw&feature=player_embedded

Ministry of Labour conducts an IPAC Audit: http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/gallery/v_infection_hs.php

CIC Successes...



COLLEN SNELGROVE, ICP - TBRHSC

Congratulations on your selection as a member of the Hand Hygiene Faculty for CPSI (Canadian Patient Safety Institute).

What a great accomplishment!

<http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca/EN/HandHygiene/Pages/default.aspx>

Congratulations to NWOICN's own Pat Piaskowski on winning the 2011 Champions of Infection Prevention and Control Award!

In collaboration with 3M Canada, CHICA-Canada has established the Champions of Infection Prevention and Control Award. This award acknowledges the accomplishments of the front line Champions of Infection Prevention and Control. The Award recognizes CHICA-Canada members who work tirelessly, and sometimes creatively, to reduce infection, raise awareness, and improve the health of Canadians. Way to go Pat! .

TRAINING TOOLKIT ENHANCES PATIENT SAFETY AT HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal
January 13, 2011

A new training tool has been developed in Ontario that will ultimately result in a healthier and safer community. "Environmental Cleaning –Best Practices Educational Toolkit" is based on the best practices for Environmental Cleaning as developed by the Ontario Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee and is designed to improve environmental conditions within all areas of healthcare.

"This toolkit has been designed to support Environmental Services Managers and Infection Control Professionals in providing training to staff regarding effective procedures for environmental cleaning," explains Pat Piaskowski, Network Coordinator for Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network . The content covers key areas of cleaning for both routine and special cleaning dealing with resistant bacteria. Effective cleaning practices contribute to infection control, reducing risks to patients, visitors and staff.

"Implementing these best practices is important for ensuring safe and consistent cleaning in healthcare facilities across the province," says Piaskowski. The Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network provided training on the toolkit to Environmental Service managers in healthcare facilities across Northwestern Ontario earlier this fall and will continue to provide additional training and support in the future.

Randy Mehagan, Manager of Housekeeping Services at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, was part of the Ontario team that developed the new training toolkit and has spearheaded its implementation within the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

"We are dedicated to training all of our existing staff in order to ensure a level of consistency," says Mehagan. "A good portion of Health Sciences Centre staff has been introduced to the Environmental Cleaning training tool and it is already proving successful. We have been receiving positive feedback from employees who have gone through it. The educational toolkit provides easy to follow information that has been helpful and supportive."

While working on the development of the toolkit, Mehagan's confidence in the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre has only improved. "We as a facility are further ahead than other facilities I have seen in Southern Ontario. We may be smaller and more remote, but we have the ability to think more independently which has proven beneficial," Mehagan says. "The development and implementation of the new training tool will continue to strengthen our position as a premier healthcare facility."

Message From Virox Technologies Regarding Glucometer Cleaning

Some glucose test strips used to monitor blood glucose in patients and residents employ an oxidase enzyme that **reacts with hydrogen peroxide**. Hydrogen peroxide can be found in numerous products such as oral hygiene products, wound care products or surface disinfectants.

An issue recently surfaced at an Ontario facility where the reaction caused **inaccurately high blood glucose** results resulting in patient harm.

The key message is that it is a very specific type of strip that will react with **ANY** hydrogen peroxide based product.

This is the importance of following the “4 Moments” of hand hy-giene. If the healthcare worker’s hands come into contact with hydrogen peroxide, which is active ingredient in some surface disinfectants, before performing the test, the healthcare worker can inadvertently contaminate the strip which can lead to reporting errors.

Although relevant for any product containing hydrogen per-oxide, Virox Technologies Inc provided a technical bulletin on this matter in 2008. An updated version has recently been circulated and is available on the Virox website.

You can access this technical bulletin at <http://www.virox.com/download.aspx?ItemInfoID=463>

Upcoming NWOICN Lunch & Learns

- September 15, 2011 IPAC Auditing
- October 20, 2011 Group A Strep
- November 17, 2011 I Infection Control in the OR
- December 15, 2011 Hepatitis B and HIV

For more information on these lunch and learns and to register your site contact Carrie Pettit at carrie.pettit@oahpp.ca. All our Lunch & Learns are available by videoconference, webcasting and teleconference.

OUR E-MAILS HAVE CHANGED!

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Please change our e-mails in your contact list.

Webber Teleclasses - www.webbertraining.com

July 14, 2011

[\(Free British Teleclass\) Climate Change and Infectious Disease](#)

Speaker: Prof. Andrew Nichols, University of Plymouth, UK

July 20, 2011

[\(Free WHO Teleclass - Europe\) Highlights and Results From May 5, 2011 Initiatives Around the World](#)

Speaker: Claire Kilpatrick & Benedetta Allegranzi - WHO Patient Safety Challenge

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