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Coming Soon to CICN



Do you need to stay up to date with current IPAC news and have access to recent articles?

Sign up today to receive *e-focus*; our new electronic monthly newsletter.

English— <http://eepurl.com/caW7>

Important Health Notices are issued by the **Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care** in response to abnormal events that require ministry direction or instruction.

Go to: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/ihn.html> to register.

To access current information on H1N1 Outbreak go to the **Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion** at <http://www.oahpp.ca/SRI%20Bulletin.php>

Your Infection Control Week

October 19-23, 2009

The third week in October is designated as **National Infection Control Week** in Canada and the United States. In Canada, Infection Control Week originated in 1988 to highlight infection control efforts in acute care, long-term care and the community. It was an opportunity for Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) to educate staff and the community about the importance of infection prevention and to promote the valuable work being done by ICPs in a visible and fun way. In 1989 the federal government proclaimed Infection Control Week an annual event.

The key to a successful Infection Control Week is to provide a variety of activities that maintain a high level of interest. Success also depends upon getting a wide variety of people or departments actively involved. Your first task is to designate why your organization should participate in Infection Control Week and what you hope to achieve.

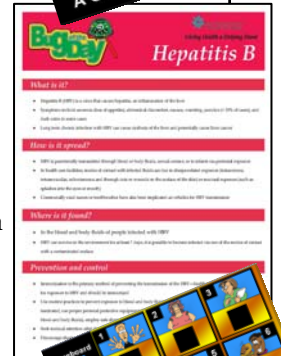
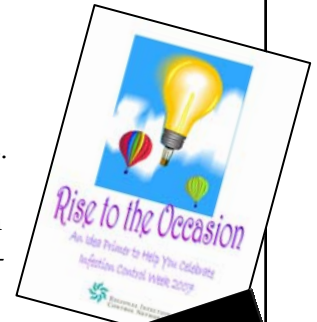
The Regional Infection Control Network has come up with a variety of new resources to help ICPs promote Infection Control Week including recommendations on how to use the resources. These include:

- ◆ Bug of the Day
- ◆ Fast Facts
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Daily Emails
- ◆ Rise to the Occasion Primer

One-page fact sheets on bacteria and viruses of health care interest have been created including hepatitis B, norovirus, and *C. difficile*. Six Fast Facts topics including hand hygiene, Routine Practices, and environmental cleaning can be shared with your staff. PowerPoint games on a variety of infection control topics such as vancomycin resistant enterococci and Routine Practices have been developed. Be creative, games are a fun way to provide education to staff. Daily emails have also been created to promote messages on infection control topics.

These resources will be available for download soon at www.ricn.on.ca. More Infection Control Week ideas can be found on the CHICA-Canada website at:

http://www.chica.org/news_icweek.html.



The New Routine Has Arrived!

The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has released its latest Best Practice document – *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings*. Although a new document to PIDAC, the concept of Routine Practices and Additional Precautions (RPAP) is not new to Ontario healthcare facilities. Infection Control Professionals have been teaching these concepts, based on Health Canada’s 1999 document titled *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care* (currently being revised), for almost a decade.

What’s New With RPAP?

In general, the new document reiterates many of the principles noted in the original Health Canada document. PIDAC has just placed greater emphasis on a number of the important concepts. Below you will find a list of some of the re-emphasized material as well as highlights of some of the changes PIDAC has made to RPAP.

What’s Emphasized?

- ◆ Importance of performing a **risk assessment** before each client interaction
- ◆ Facilities **must** have a comprehensive hand hygiene program that includes **point of care** dispensers and a **hand care** program
- ◆ **Mask and eye protection** to be worn to protect the mucous membranes
- ◆ Clients, staff, and visitors should observe **respiratory etiquette** principles (e.g. coughing into a tissue)

What’s Changed?

Health Canada - 1999	PIDAC - 2009
Droplets travel less than 1 metre	Droplets can travel up to 2 metres
No mention of droplet/aerosol generating procedures	Staff to wear PPE when conducting a droplet/aerosol generating procedure (see pg 33 of PIDAC document)
Acute Care Contact Precautions – gloves and gowns on room entry	Gloves on room/bed space entry, gown if skin or clothing will come in contact with patient or patient’s environment
N95 respirator required when entering room of patients with active pulmonary or laryngeal TB	N95 respirator required on room entry and when transporting patient with active pulmonary or laryngeal TB
When visiting a patient on Airborne Precautions, if indicated, visitors should be instructed in the appropriate use of a mask and other precautions	Household contacts of a patient with active pulmonary or laryngeal TB do not require an N95 respirator when visiting the patient
Disease chart with required precautions indicated	Same chart, but many required precautions have changed (see pages 93-105 for details)

The new RPAP document can be downloaded at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic_routine.html.

Contact info@cicn-rcic.on.ca to learn more about implementing this document in your healthcare setting.

Check Out Our NEW Look!

Our website has changed and features:
Improved Access to Tools & Resources
User Friendly Navigation

www.ricn.on.ca



The H1N1 flu vaccine is now available!



H1N1 immunization clinics will start in Ontario during the week of October 26. However, as the vaccine will arrive in shipments over time, immunizations will start with people who will benefit most from the vaccine.

This includes :

- People 65 and under with chronic conditions
- Healthy children 6 months to under five years of age;
- People living in remote or isolated communities;
- Health care workers; and
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines

The H1N1 vaccine will be available to everyone else soon. [Contact your local public health unit](#) to find out when and where you can get your flu shot.

Taking the *Panic* out of *Pandemic*

More than 200 registrants attended this timely educational event on Thursday, October 8, 2009. Physicians, nurse practitioners, ICPs and other health care workers from across the continuum of health care had opportunities to visit a variety of stations including Fit Testing, hand hygiene, NP swab techniques and more.



Fantastic!!

“Excellent presentations. I feel more comfortable with the aspects of H1N1”

“A wonderful blend of practical and theoretical information – presenters were great.”



“Practical hands on: NP swab, hand washing, PPE”

You are invited to join us in the CICN boardroom for Webber Teleclasses
Contact us at info@cicn-rcic.on.ca

Webber Training Schedule 1:30-2:30 p.m.

October 29

PREVENTION OF CATHETER-ASSOCIATED URINARY TRACT INFECTION: NEW STRATEGIES FROM CDC/HICPAC
Russell Olmstead, St. Joseph Mercy Health System

November 5

VIRUSES AND HAND HYGIENE
Professor Sayed Sattar, University of Ottawa

November 10 (British Teleclass)

GETTING GUIDELINES INTO PRACTICE
Professor Carol Pellowe, Thames Valley University

November 12

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE ASSOCIATED DISEASE: A FINANCIAL BURDEN ANALYSIS
Professor Ralf - Peter Vonberg, Hanover Medical School, Germany

December 3

IC DURING & AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS
Pam Falk
University of Texas Medical Branch

December 10

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AUDITS: DO THEY HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF C DIFF & AROS
Dr Michelle Alfa
Diagnostic Services Manitoba

For more information: www.webbertraining.com

IPAC for Community HCWs

October 9, 2009

A half day educational session was presented to more than 40 community health care workers from across the Champlain region. Topics covered included Routine Practices,



Additional Precautions, Environmental Cleaning and immunization.

A PPE fashion show capped this excellent event!!!





The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital d'Ottawa

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Infection Control Professionals

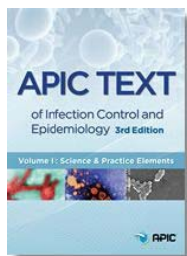
Opportunities are currently available for Infection Control Professionals who are interested in contributing to our team in a permanent full time capacity (Comp# 33116/33117).

To learn more about The Ottawa Hospital and positions within the Infection Prevention and Control Program, we encourage you to visit our website at www.ottawahospital.on.ca.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume, quoting the applicable competition number, in confidence to:

Email: jobs@ottawahospital.on.ca
 Fax: (613) 761-5374
 Mail: The Ottawa Hospital
 Human Resources Department
 1053 Carling Avenue
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1Y 4E9

New Resource



The 3rd Edition of the APIC Text is now available!

CIC Study Group

If you are interested in attaining CIC certification and would like information on joining a study group, contact: info@cicn-rcic.on.ca

There is still room to attend the following videoconference **Lunch & Learn Sessions** in the CICN boardroom.

Foot Care & Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC):
November 19, 2009

Environmental Cleaning: December 17, 2009

Antibiotic Resistant Organisms: January 21, 2010

Surveillance: February 18, 2010

Auditing Infection Control Practices: March 25, 2010

Construction & Renovation: April 15, 2010

Employee Health & IPAC: May 20, 2010

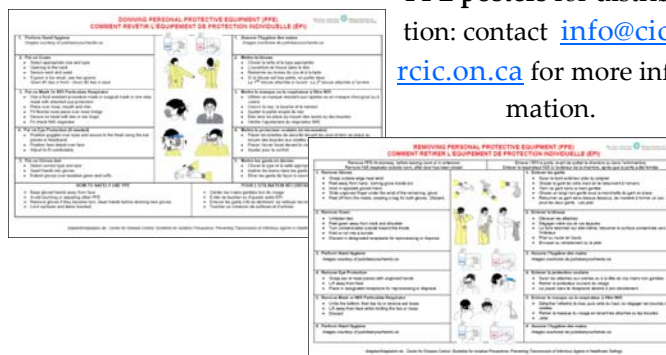
Isolation Practices for Tuberculosis: June 17, 2010

Target audience: All front line staff across the continuum of care (Acute Care, Long Term Care, Community and Public Health)

Contact: info@cicn-rcic.on.ca for details

Still Available!

PPE posters for distribution: contact info@cicn-rcic.on.ca for more information.



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

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REGIONAL INFECTION
CONTROL NETWORKS

Champlain

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*