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Champlain Infection Control Network



Newsletter – March/07

Spring is almost upon us, and with it, our thoughts turn to Spring Cleaning (among other things)! In this newsletter, we are sharing some information on the common question of environmental culturing in healthcare settings. It is a question that comes up for a variety of reasons, including an interest in monitoring general cleaning standards (not recommended), and in relation to outbreak management (sometimes recommended). We hope that you benefit from the information. During the spring, we are concentrating on expanding our contact database to include individuals and groups in the Champlain Healthcare Community settings, that might have been missed in the first year of our operations. Feel free to distribute this newsletter widely throughout your contacts if you think it will be helpful to their practice. Those who are not currently members of the network are welcome to contact us for further information. If you have any ideas for topics you would like to see discussed in upcoming newsletters, please let us know.

Colette Ouellet



The Champlain Infection Control Network would like to wish Patricia Syms- Sutherland good luck in her new role at McMaster University Medical Centre

Patricia was the Provincial Coordinator with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and has been instrumental in the development of the 14 Regional Infection Control Networks across Ontario. We wish her the best.

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What is the IPCCCE Project

IPCCCE is an acronym that will become familiar to many of us over the course of 2007. It stands for **Infection Prevention and Control Core Competency Education Project**.

At the end of January CHICA-Ontario members and Regional Infection Control members should have received a letter from the MOHLTC with an accompanying IPCCCE Newsletter.

Those documents contain a detailed explanation of the background, guiding principles, program description and estimated project timelines.

The overall goal of the IPCCCE is to assist in improving the knowledge and practices of infection prevention and control for all healthcare providers in Ontario using standardized education modules that will be provided to all healthcare settings.

To date, three modules have been completed – The Chain of Infection, Hand Hygiene and Routines Practices. These particular modules have been created to meet the needs of professional learners in the acute care environment. Modules for other practice settings including long-term care, public health and non-acute care are on their way to be completed as scheduled.

On January 22nd the Regional Infection Control Network Coordinators were given the opportunity to “test drive” these modules and provide feedback to the project leads, Clare Barry and Liz Van Horne. I can report that we all agreed – the IPCCCE Program modules are impressive and we are anxious to see them in use.

The next steps include introducing the IPCCCE project via a videoconference and providing appropriate learning materials for the first three modules.

Next, a train-the-trainer plan to roll-out the modules will take place – we expect that the Regional Infection Control Networks will be key players in the training for IPCCCE and that we will provide support for certain issues that may be encountered as the modules are implemented as well as liaising with the MOHLTC with your feedback.

Look for further information to be distributed over the next few weeks regarding the IPCCCE. For more information or questions please send us an e-mail or phone call.

Educational Events

- ▶ Tuesday, March 20, 2007 – OHA & MOHLTC Infection Prevention and Control Core Competency Education for Acute Care Professionals Videoconference 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- ▶ Friday, April 13, 2007 – OHA Presents Blood Management and Conservation\ Holiday Inn – King Street 370 King Street West, Toronto Internet: www.oha.com/conference
- ▶ April 14 -17 2007 – SHEA presents 17th Annual SHEA Scientific Meeting Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Internet: www.shea-online.org
- ▶ May 3-4, 2007 – CIPHI Ontario Presents OPERATION: Communicable Diseases Investigation Holiday Inn Select Toronto Airport 970 Dixon Road Toll Free – 1-866-845-1868
- ▶ June 9 – 14, 2007 – CHICA-Canada National Education Conference Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, AB 970 Dixon Road Internet: www.chica.org
- ▶ June 24 -28, 2007 – APIC Annual Conference San Jose Convention Centre, San Jose, CA Internet: www.apic.org
- ▶ October 15 et 16, 2007 – Programme Scientifique La Qualité de l’environnement dans les centres de soins de santé: un défi! Centre Mont-Royal, 2200, rue Mansfield, Montreal Site web: saac.chu-sainte-justine.org



Micro 101 Lecture presented by: Sue Cooper
Infection Control Consultant, SEOICN

On Thursday, February 8, 2007 - 13 sites participated in person by videoconference or by teleconference in the Micro 101 Lecture presented by Sue Cooper.

We would like to thank Sue for her very interesting and information Session.



Culturing the Environment

We are frequently asked for recommendations on environmental culturing as a means to prove or verify that cleaning standards meet an acceptable level. However, this approach is discouraged for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that negative results can undermine efforts to improve practices where they do not appear to meet the standard. Any environmental sampling must be organized with advice from Infection Control and the Microbiology experts, and require defined parameters and plans prior to execution of the testing.

Proper environmental culture requires quantitative microbiology which is very labour-intensive & expensive. I will not suggest that environmental sampling is never done, but that it only be done in keeping with accepted standards.

Following is an excerpt from the 2003 Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities:

Before 1970, U.S. hospitals conducted regularly scheduled culturing of the air and environmental surfaces (e.g., floors, walls, and table tops). By 1970, CDC and the American Hospital Association (AHA) were advocating the discontinuation of routine environmental culturing because rates of healthcare-associated infection had not been associated with levels of general microbial contamination of air or environmental surfaces, and because meaningful standards for permissible levels of microbial contamination of environmental surfaces or air did not exist.

In this guideline, targeted microbiologic sampling connotes a monitoring process that includes a) a written, defined, multidisciplinary protocol for sample collection and culturing; b) analysis and interpretation of results using scientifically determined or anticipatory baseline values for comparison; and c) expected actions based on the results obtained. Infection control, in conjunction with laboratorians, should assess the health-care facility's capability to conduct sampling and determine when expert consultation and/or services are needed.

Microbiologic sampling of air, water, and inanimate surfaces (i.e., environmental sampling) is an **expensive and time-consuming process** that is **complicated by many variables** in protocol, analysis, and interpretation. It is therefore indicated for only four situations.

- to **support an investigation** of an outbreak of disease or infections when environmental reservoirs or fomites are implicated epidemiologically in disease transmission.
- for **research**. Well-designed and controlled experimental methods and approaches can provide new information about the spread of health-care-associated diseases.

- to monitor a **potentially hazardous environmental condition**, confirm the presence of a hazardous chemical or biological agent, and validate the successful abatement of the hazard. This type of sampling can be used to: a) detect bioaerosols released from the operation of health-care equipment (e.g., an ultrasonic cleaner) and determine the success of repairs in containing the hazard, b) detect the release of an agent of bioterrorism in an indoor environmental setting and determine its successful removal or inactivation, and c) sample for industrial hygiene or safety purposes (e.g., monitoring a "sick building").
- **evaluate the effects of a change in infection-control practice or to ensure that equipment or systems perform according to specifications and expected outcomes**. Any sampling for quality-assurance purposes must follow sound sampling protocols and address confounding factors through the use of properly selected controls. Results from a single environmental sample are difficult to interpret in the absence of a frame of reference or perspective.

The only types of routine environmental microbiologic sampling recommended as part of a quality-assurance program are a) the biological monitoring of sterilization processes by using bacterial spores and b) the monthly culturing of water used in hemodialysis applications and for the final dialysate use dilution.



On Tuesday, February 12, 2007 the OHA and MOHLTC presented a videoconference of "A user Friendly Approach to Hand Hygiene Practice in Acute Care Settings."

9 sites (40 guests) participated from Champlain Network.



Community-Associated MRSA Information for Community Settings

What is CA-MRSA?

CA-MRSA stands for Community-Associated Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus. It is a type of bacteria that has been found in the community in people without any exposure to hospitals or healthcare.

What are the symptoms of MRSA?

When an infection with CA-MRSA occurs, the symptoms depend on where the infection occurs. CA-MRSA may cause infections such as boils, rashes or open wounds. Sometimes the boil, rash or wound may get worse and become a more serious soft tissue infection.

CA-MRSA can also be found in people on their skin, but they do not have an infection and are well. This is often called the "carrier" state when the CA-MRSA is not causing any problems.

CA-MRSA can also cause serious infections of the lung, blood stream or joint(s) that can cause someone to get really sick.

How is it spread?

It can be spread by touching a person with CA-MRSA or by handling things that they have used. Examples of common objects that are shared between people that could spread CA-MRSA are bar soap, sheets, blankets and/or razors.

Remember the "5 C's" implicated in spreading CA-MRSA (Hawkes, et al. Community-associated MRSA: Superbug at our doorstep. *CMAJ* 2006; 176:1, 4-56).

- **C**rowding
- frequent skin **C**ontact
- **C**ompromised skin
- sharing **C**ontaminated personal care items
- lack of **C**leanliness

Who can get CA-MRSA?

Anyone can get it, but it has been found in:

- Children
- Frequent antibiotic users
- People who play contact sports
- People in jail
- People who are homeless
- People who use IV drugs
- Men who have sex with men
- People who are in the military
- People who have a skin condition e.g. psoriasis, eczema.

How can I prevent spreading CA-MRSA?

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Avoid sharing personal items such as toothbrushes, nail files, combs, brushes, towels, soap, razors, blankets with others
- Cover cuts and scrapes with a bandage until it is healed
- Do not touch other people's wounds or bandages
- Clean objects that you share with other people such as gym equipment with disinfectants.
- Do not share creams, lotions, soaps cosmetics and other personal products that are in contact with the skin.
- Practice good personal hygiene i.e. showering after working out or playing contact sports.
Wash hands after touching skin lesions or soiled dressings.



Community-Associated MRSA Information for Community Settings (CONTINUED)

What should I do if I think I have a skin infection?

Go to your doctor or to a clinic or hospital where medical assessment is available.
Early medical attention can help to prevent an infection from getting worse
If you have an abscess, a health care provider may drain the pus.

What can I do to keep others from getting CA-MRSA if I have been told I have it?

Clean your hands, your bandages, your home!

Keep the infected area covered with a clean bandage or as directed by your healthcare provider.
Clean your hands often with soap and warm water or an alcohol hand rub, especially after you change your bandages.

Are there special instructions for house cleaning?

Regularly clean your bathroom, kitchen, and all other rooms with a standard household detergent.
Follow a cleaning schedule using routine household products.

Do I need to wash my clothes separately?

Clothes and linen can be washed in the regular household laundry; dry clothes in the dryer, rather than air-drying as the heat helps to kill bacteria on clothes. If your clothes are heavily soiled with body fluids such as pus, wash them separately.

Do I need to wash my dishes separately?

Dishes and cutlery can be washed by hand with soap and water or in a dishwasher.

Can pets get CA-MRSA?

Yes, pets can get CA-MRSA too, so if you have pet in the home, make sure that you clean your hands before and after contact with them.

What else do I need to know if I have CA-MRSA?

Always tell any healthcare providers who treat you that you have CA-MRSA.

This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask your health care provider.

Developed by Central South Infection Control Network – January 2007

Links to Free Webinars

<http://www.iceinstitute.com/webinar/html>

This site links to free “webinars” on a number of interesting topics including Contact Precautions, Indwelling Urinary Catheters and Surgical Site Infections. All you need is access to the internet. You can register on this site for each webinar and to receive updates on upcoming webinars.

<http://www.infectioncontrolday.com>

<http://www.apic.org/am/template.cfm?section=home>

On line C-Diff course www.mei.com/cdad507/

Champlain Infection Control Network (CICN) Office Hours

Monday to Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Colette Ouellet – Network Coordinator
Suzanne Rowland – Infection Control Consultant
Lise Blanchard – Administrative Coordinator

613-761-4833 or Toll free 866-833-8868
Fax: 613-761-4917 or Email: lblanchard@cicn-rcic.on.ca



Welcome Suzanne Rowland

It is my distinct pleasure to announce that Suzanne Rowland joined the Champlain Infection Control Network team on Monday February 5, 2007 as the new Infection Control Consultant.

Suzanne is a fluently bilingual, baccalaureate trained nurse who comes to us from the City of Ottawa Public Health Unit, where she has spent the last two years working as an integral member of the Outbreak Management Team. Prior to that, she has worked in a variety of interesting settings, both in Public Health and at local acute care centers. She brings a wealth of experience and a great understanding of healthcare across the continuum.

We are pleased to welcome Suzanne to this new role.



Steering Committee Member

Dr. Kathy Suh

Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and the Associate Medical Director at The Ottawa Hospital. Grew up in Ottawa, went to primary and secondary schools here and still has family here. Graduated from medical school at the University of Ottawa and completed internal medicine residency training and infectious diseases subspecialty training at the University of Ottawa. Subsequently, focused on hospital epidemiology and infection control during 2 additional years at the University of Rochester, Rochester NY. I have also lived and worked in Kingston prior to moving back to Ottawa. Before coming to TOH, I was a member of the infectious diseases group at CHEO, practicing in pediatric infectious diseases, in addition to overseeing the infection control program which I continue to do currently. Married and lives with her husband in Ottawa. Interests: enjoys food (eating especially), athletics (running), music, reading escapist fiction.



Free Webber Teleclass Schedule

April 12 – Who's afraid of the CIC Exam
1:30 to 2:30 pm

July 3 – Implementing innovations in Health Services 8:30 to 9:30 am

July 26 – CDC Guideline review –
Disinfection & Sterilization 1:30 to 2:30pm

August 9 – Outcome Surveillance and
Process Surveillance – Tools to Minimize
Nosocomial Infection 1:30 to 2:30 pm

August 22 – ESBL's Where are we now.
1:30 to 2:30 pm

To register for these teleclasses, go to www.webbertraining.com register through the main page.

Wanting free on-line courses on Epidemiology?

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sehs-acss/index.html>

Click on Module description and you will see a list of courses.

The courses are a good introduction to epidemiology for those working full time because they are time-limited.

The content is practical and aimed at the working audience. They are all done on-line and currently there is no charge for these.



Website of the month

The CHICA-Canada Website

www.chica.org

The Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada (CHICA-Canada) is a multidisciplinary, professional organization for those engaged in the prevention and control of infections in Canada. Members include infection control professionals from nursing, medicine, microbiology, medical technology, public health and epidemiology. CHICA-Canada is the recognized voice of infection control professionals in Canada, and represents members by engaging in partnerships with many organizations, such as the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA), the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

The [CHICA-Canada website](http://www.chica.org) offers members and the general public a wide array of information specific to the practice of infection prevention and control. The following are some of the opportunities available on the CHICA-Canada website, including website links:

- Up to date news items relating to infection prevention and control [<http://www.chica.org>]
- Listing of important Canadian alerts and recalls [http://www.chica.org/news_alerts.html]
- Calendar of Canadian infection control conferences and seminars [http://www.chica.org/educ_calendar_nat.html]
- Calendar of international infection control conferences and seminars [<http://www.chica.org/ific/ific.html>]
- Infection control education provided in Canada, including online courses [http://www.chica.org/educ_education.html]
- Postings of infection control jobs in Canada [http://www.chica.org/opps_employ.html]
- Research grants available for research relating to infection control in Canada [http://www.chica.org/opps_research_grants.html]
- Participation in focused interest groups [http://www.chica.org/inside_interest_groups.html]
- Position statements and briefs from CHICA-Canada on a range of topics [http://www.chica.org/links_position.html]
- Information about the annual CHICA-Canada Educational Conference [http://www.chica.org/conf_registration.html]
- Links and links and links! A wide array of links to other sites dealing with topics such as [construction and renovation](#), [emerging infections](#), [hand hygiene](#), [disaster-related infections](#), [bioterrorism](#) and more!

Members of CHICA-Canada also have access to a password-protected secure area of the website which offers a number of benefits to members. Some of these include:

- Websites for subcommittees and interest groups for information sharing, posting of documents and links to sites of interest to the group
- Fact sheets available from CHICA-Canada and other organizations
- Links to websites that offer free teaching aids (e.g. posters, games, booklets, etc.)
- CHICA-Canada posters from past years available for downloading to enhance your events
- Online access to the Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC), CHICA-Canada's scientific publication
- Access to CHICA Connections, the association's discussion board, where members may chat with others and ask questions, pose answers and discuss controversial items related to infection prevention and control

Please visit the CHICA-Canada website today!

Network News

South Western Ontario Infection Control Network

Career Opportunity:

- **Network Coordinator**

Call for interest

- **Network Steering Committee Chair**
- **Network Steering Committee Members**

Send resume to: Regional Infection Control Network
c/o Human Resources Department
Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance
46 General Hospital Drive
Stratford, ON N5A 2Y6
Fax: 519-271-1177
Email: humanresources@hpha.ca

CICN Lending Library

As promised the CICN Lending Library is now available to all members. To view complete library list please see the attachment to the newsletter.

To borrow any library items contact:

Lise Blanchard at blanchard@cicn-rcic.on.ca or call at 613-761-4833 or Toll Free at 866-833-8868