

FOCUS on



Mississauga Halton

Giving Health a Helping Hand

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

FALL 2009	
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OUR COMMITMENT TO HAND HYGIENE

In the coming weeks, the MHICN will be launching a campaign to help our local hospitals demonstrate their staffs' **living commitment to hand hygiene** using "trees" and "hands". Our Public Health partners in Halton and Peel are on-board to support this initiative too. After demonstrating the use of alcohol based hand, staff will be asked to make a visible public commitment to clean their hands by signing a hand/leaf and affixing it to the tree. A similar campaign is planned for LTC facilities so stay tuned!



Planning 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.

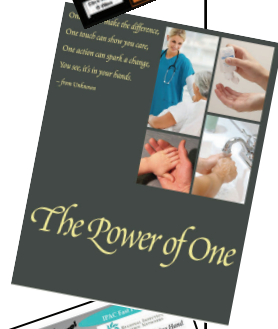
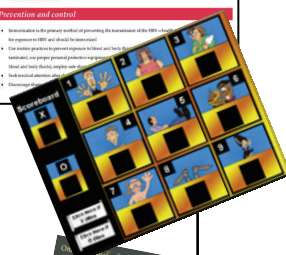
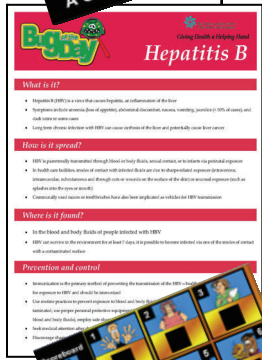
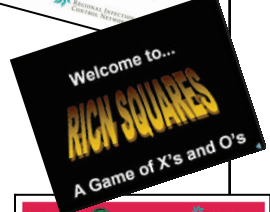
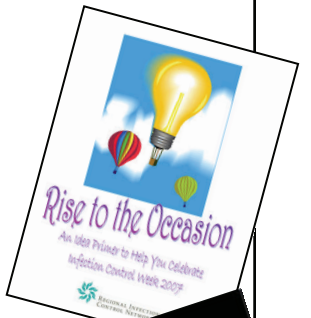
The key to a successful Infection Control Week is to provide a variety of activities that maintain a high level of interest. Success also depends upon getting a wide variety of people or departments actively involved. Your first task is to designate why your organization should participate in Infection 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. Power point 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 are available for download 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.

Tell us about your IC week activities! Contact Risa: rcash-more@thc.on.ca and we'll showcase it in our correspondence with our stakeholders.



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 Risa at rcashmore@thc.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

Steering Committee - Call for Interest

Are you interested in participating more in the MHICN in an advisory capacity? Many of our current Steering Committee Members, including the **Chair** are approaching the end of their two or three year terms of office and we anticipate there will be openings for representatives from **acute care, long-term care, community care, occupational health and pre-hospital care**. Your time commitment would be 5-6 meetings per year in the MHICN boardroom. Please contact Madeleine at mashcroft@thc.on.ca if you are interested in becoming a member of our Steering Committee.

Just Clean Your Hands – Long Term Care

It's coming! The Just Clean Your Hands (JCYH) program has now been adapted for the LTC setting. The MOHLTC expects to launch the new website and inform all the long-term care Administrators about this important initiative by the end of October.

The RICNs will be supporting the rollout of this hand hygiene program in the long-term care settings. We will let you know dates for upcoming sessions; more information will follow!



e-focus Newsletter your 5-minute infection connection

Email us at ssostaric@thc.on.ca to subscribe

Webber Teleclasses

All teleclasses are offered *free* at the **MHICN office from 13:30-14:30**. Let us know you are coming! Call the office to reserve your spot: 905-804-7948 x 3219

October 15

[THE SOCIOECONOMIC COST OF ENTERIC DISEASE With Dr. Doug Scott, CDC](#)

October 21 [NATIONAL WORK ON THE PREVENTION OF HEALTH-CARE ACQUIRED INFECTIONS IN AUSTRALIA](#) With Dr.

Marilyn Cruikshank, Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare

October 22 (Free Teleclass)

[IMPROVING INFECTION CONTROL IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES](#)

With Dr. Benedetta Allegranzi, WHO

October 29

[PREVENTION OF CATHETER-ASSOCIATED URINARY TRACT INFECTION: NEW STRATEGIES FROM CDC/HICPAC](#) With Russell

Olmstead, St. Joseph Mercy Health System

It's a different flu year! H1N1 and Seasonal Vaccines

Why is it a different flu year?

- ◆ There are **two** types of “flu” viruses circulating: seasonal flu viruses and the new H1N1 flu virus (known as pH1N1) (usually there is only seasonal influenza circulating.)
- ◆ The 2009 **pH1N1 is the predominant** circulating strain (the usual circulating strain is seasonal influenza.)
- ◆ There will be *two influenza vaccines* available this year: seasonal and pH1N1. (the pandemic H1N1 strain is the additional vaccine.)
- ◆ The vaccines will be rolled out in a 3-phase approach (there is usually only 1 phase):

Phase 1: Seasonal influenza vaccine will soon be available for people **over 65 years of age and residents of long-term care facilities**. Immunization of staff in long-term care will follow at a later date

Phase 2: pH1N1 as per the federal strategy

Phase 3: Seasonal vaccination roll-out to those not vaccinated in phase 1 (previously, LTC facility residents, and staff receive influenza immunization at the same time).

Contact your local Public Health Unit for further information about vaccine availability.

H1N1 resources are available through the **MOHLTC**, including the **brochure**: “This year it’s a different flu season” can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/default.aspx>

The **H1N1 Flu in Ontario report** is found here:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/h1n1/pro/docs/oh9100_report.pdf

The **Ontario Influenza Bulletin** can be accessed

here: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_08/flubul_mn.html

New ICC at TCICN!

Eva Skiba, a former ICP at The Wenleigh LTC and Credit Valley Hospital and graduate of the MHICN CIC Study Group has accepted a position as Infection Control Consultant at the Toronto Central Infection Control Network. Congratulations, Eva!



MHICN Stakeholder Activities



On August 24, the MHICN office hosted the OHA Videoconference on the new **PIDAC document: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings**. Attendees included representatives from acute care, long term care and community settings.



Members of the **Joint Influenza Campaign** met recently to strategize about the “the different flu year”. The committee is comprised of members from 3 health departments (Peel, Halton and Wellington), 5 hospitals and the MHICN and CWICN. Committee members are pictured in front of the poster presented at the CHICA-Canada conference regarding their previous year’s activities.



The **TPIC-TPH-RICN Annual Infection Prevention & Control Educational Day for Long Term Care** was held September 17 at 89 Chestnut, U of T. Madeleine used our “clickers” - hand-held audience participation tools - to test participant’s knowledge about *Clostridium difficile*.



The Canadian Association of Environmental Managers (CAEM) in collaboration with the RICNs hosted the **Red, White and Green conference** October 1-2 in Grimsby [Pictured: Keith Sopha, (CAEM), Brenda Smith, (CWICN) Madeleine (MHICN), & Nora Boyd (ESICN)]. Speakers included **Dr. Mary Vearncombe** on the soon to be released **PIDAC Best Practices document on Environmental Cleaning**, **Dr. Dick Zoutman**, front-line managers, and an interactive discussion on implementation. We will let you know as soon as the PIDAC document is approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and posted on the website.



Another CIC! Success!

Congratulations to **Sonia Gallant, RN** **CIC!** Sonia is a Public Health Nurse at the Halton Region Health Department.

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



Mississauga Halton

Giving Health a Helping Hand

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