

FOCUS_{on}

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Regional Infection Control Network
Northwestern Ontario

Réseau régional de contrôle des infections
Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario

Fall /Winter 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LTC—PREVALENCE STUDY	PAGE 1
INTERNATIONAL IC WEEK	PAGE 1
NWOICN LUNCH AND LEARN/LIBRARY	PAGE 1
ASK THE EXPERT	PAGE 2
NEW RESOURCES	PAGE 2
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS	PAGE 3
NWOICN IPAC FORUM	PAGE 3
MINISTRY LABOUR WEBPAGE	PAGE 4
IPAC PRESENTATION/VIDEOS	PAGE 4
RICN INTRO TO IPAC EDU. SERIES	PAGE 4
NACICP STUDENT GRADUATES	PAGE 4
WEBBER TELECASSES	PAGE 4



Lunch and Learn

Outbreak Tips & Tricks

Presented by Stefanie Ralph, and Virginia Tirilis of the Central South infection Control Network

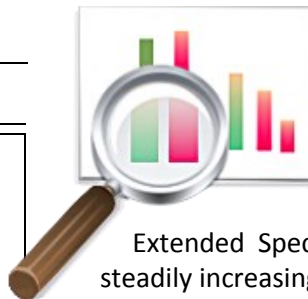
December 15, 2011

12:00pm to 1:15pm EST

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

or contact Carrie Pettit:
carrie.pettit@oahpp.ca
with questions.

NWOICN has over 125 resources available in our library to those on our contact lists. If you are interested in what we have to offer, follow the link below



Long Term Care—Prevalence Study

Sometimes, ignorance is not bliss.

The number of antibiotic resistant organisms (ARO) such as Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) and

Extended Spectrum Beta-lactamase producers (ESBL) have been steadily increasing over the past 15 to 20 years. Infection control professionals in acute care follow these cases closely, and there is no question that the increasing numbers have had an impact on the patients themselves, but also on resources, budget and nursing care. So what is the impact in Long Term Care? We don't know. There has never been a broad examination of the number of cases of AROs in Long Term Care settings. Together, we are going to change that in Ontario.

This year, the Regional Infection Control Networks targeted Infection Control Week to perform the **first ever** "Long Term Care ARO Prevalence Study". That is, during the week of October 17 to 21, 2011, we asked all 617 Long Term Care Homes (LTCH) to participate in sharing their current known numbers of MRSA, VRE and ESBL positive residents. This information will allow us to understand the burden of these organisms on Long Term Care in Ontario.

By participating in this review, LTCH will be able to find out whether their own burden of AROs is similar to, greater than or less than other similar-sized facilities in their region and across the province. By the end of 2011, all the analysis will be completed and we will understand for the first time, in a measurable way, the impact of AROs in Ontario's Long Term Care Homes .

International Infection Control Week

Public Health Ontario is hosted a series of five educational webinars to celebrate International Infection Control Week!

- IPAC Essentials – Transmission and Routine Practices;
- Hand Hygiene (HH) and the use of HH Rates as an Indicator of Patient Safety;
- A look back at the 2010-2011 Influenza virus from a microbiological perspective, and improving influenza vaccination rates;
- Outbreak Management, including ethical considerations; and
- Review of Practice in Personal Service Settings.

We are happy to inform you that the **2011 Infection Control Week Educational Webinars are now available online** at

<http://www.ricn.on.ca/> in both HTML and PDF versions.

We ask everyone who views any or all of the presentations to please share your feedback with us by completing this [short survey](#).

**IN-fection Control - Are You IN?
Get IN-volved, Provide IN-put, IN-iti-ate Change!**



Question: *Are health care workers at higher risk of having hand skincare problems?*

Answer: Hand dermatitis is a common occupational health problem for health care workers (HCWs). A higher prevalence of dermatitis (e.g. 7%-30%) can be found among HCWs when compared to the general population. The consequences are serious because HCWs may have to change or leave their jobs due to occupational skin disease.

Among HCWs, *irritant contact dermatitis* is most prevalent but *allergic contact dermatitis* also occurs. Occupational *irritant contact dermatitis* is an inflammation caused by substances found in the workplace that come in direct contact with the skin. *Allergic contact dermatitis* is an allergic response to skin contact with some allergy-causing material and, unlike irritant contact dermatitis, can occur in places on the body that did not come in direct

contact with the allergy-causing material.

In HCWs, the predominant mechanisms of irritation is frequent wet work, wearing gloves and contact with disinfectants. Irritation is cumulative and dose-dependent, so longer shifts or back to back shifts can have an impact. Even water is an irritant, especially with repetitive contact. Occlusion (e.g., with gloves) may worsen the damage induced by these irritants. These risk activities lead to sub-clinically impaired skin, before the first clinical signs and symptoms begin.

The use of a well formulated alcohol-based hand rub (with emollient) should become routine for the post contamination treatment of hands among HCWs. This may mean closely checking the product ingredient list, ensuring that HCWs are included in ABHR product choice and/or trialing products before bulk purchasing. Washing hands with soap and water should be an exception, used only when hands are visibly soiled.

The [Just Clean Your Hands Hand Care Program Booklet](#) contains great information on keeping your hands healthy. For example, you should remove hand/arm jewelry before hand hygiene, use warm water instead of hot, pat hands dry – don't rub, apply moisturizer frequently, ensure hands are dry before wearing gloves and continue hand protection at home. Changing hand care habits can help reduce irritant contact dermatitis and will provide significant patient benefits by reducing the risk of nosocomial infections. A strong focus on teaching evidence-based hand hygiene practices is key to future success in improving hand hygiene and minimizing hand dermatitis.

Ask the Expert was provided by Dr. Linn Holness, Irena Kudla, Sandy Skotnicki, Joel DeKoven from the Centre of Research Expertise in Occupational Disease and Occupational Disease Specialty Program, St Michael's Hospital

Reference: Kampf G, Löffler H. Prevention of Irritant Contact Dermatitis among Health Care Workers by Using Evidence-Based Hand Hygiene Practices: A Review. *Industrial Health* 2007, 45, 645-652. Photo acknowledgement www.handdermatitis.biz/

Infection Prevention & Control Reference Tool for Community Providers

This reference tool offers our stakeholders in Community Care a quick, easy-to-read guide covering a number of topics:

- Proper Hand Hygiene Technique
- Correct use of PPE
- Routine Practices
- Additional Precautions
- Handling Equipment

It is not difficult to prevent the spread of infection! Learn about the measures that you can take by downloading a copy of this reference tool. The Community Reference Tool is now available on the [RICN homepage](#).

New Resources Available



Best Practice Manual: Annex A: Screening, Testing Surveillance for Antibiotic-Resistant Organisms in all Health Care Settings

This annex, added as an extension to PIDAC's *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions* document deals specifically with the screening, laboratory testing and surveillance of antibiotic-resistant organisms (AROs), in health care settings across the continuum of care.

This revised document (July 2011) incorporates new information relating to carbapenem resistance in *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE). This Best Practice Manual can be found on the [PIDAC Webpage](#) of the Public Health Ontario website.



Projects in Progress

Standard Precaution Signage on it's way! Watch for a new resource coming your way by December - newly designed Signs for Contact, Droplet and Airborne Precautions. These new signs will become the standardized version across all areas of the province and will be available on the RICN website. Watch for your opportunity to get in on the focus group testing.

Environmental Cleaning Educational Toolkit Evaluation. The EC Toolkit has been available since September 2010 and enjoyed great success throughout the province - with your input it will continue to do so! A number of focus groups will be held this Fall across the province to hear about your experiences with the Toolkit. The first focus group was held on September 26th at the Canadian Association of Environmental Managers "Return to Blue" conference. Stay tuned for an evaluation survey later this fall to provide your feedback!

NWOICN INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL FORUM

On October 27th, the NWOICN held an Infection Prevention and Control Forum in Thunder Bay. 50 Health Care Professionals working in Long Term Care and Acute Care facilities throughout the NW Region came to participate in this fun, information filled session

Several guest speakers from the region as well as from Public Health Ontario presented reviews and shared their successes on a variety of topics, including:

- Just Clean Your Hands Program
- Environmental Cleaning
- PIDAC Best Practices
- Core Competencies
- CRE and ARO's



'Sharing Successes' presenters (from left to right)
Randy Mehagan, Manager of Environmental Services, TBRHSC
Colleen Snelgrove, ICP, TBRHSC
Kaisa Savas, Resident Service Coordinator/Educator, Lakehead Manor (Revera Homes)
Lynn Ronnebeck, ICP, Lake of the Woods District Hospital
Ken Kiewning, Dir of Environmental Services and Facilities, Dryden Regional Health Centre

Merci

Thank you to all of the participants that helped to make this event a success!

New Ministry of Labour Webpage

Earlier this month, the Ontario Ministry of Labour launched a new page on its website dedicated to [Health and Community Care](#). Access the ministry’s workplace health and safety information and resources on this sector – all in one place. Download posters and fact sheets, watch videos and read the ministry’s latest Health Care Enforcement Plan. Coming in November: Infection Control Blitz in the Health Care Sector. Watch for information regarding the November Blitz on the Ministry of Labour’s website.

IPAC Presentations and Video Resources

We are happy to inform you that the **2011 Infection Control Week Educational Webinars are now available online** at <http://www.ricn.on.ca/> in both HTML and PDF versions. We ask everyone who views any or all of the presentations to please share your feedback with us by completing this [short survey](#).

[“Spreading Good Ideas, Not Infectious Disease”](#)
Dr. Michael Gardam

[“Flu Mama”](#) Created by the Middlesex London Health Unit

RICN “Introduction to IPAC Education Series”

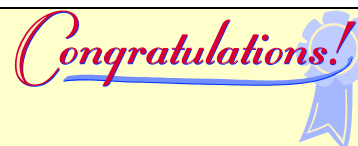
The RICN Introduction to Infection Prevention and Control Education Series is now available on our website. The deadline for completion of all 8 sessions is December 31, 2011. The Session Material will not be accessible after this date.

Participants are required to complete all 8 evaluations and obtain a minimum score of 60% on the post-test questions to receive a certificate of completion and a complimentary copy of the RICN Non-Acute Care Pocket Guide. Please register for this series by contacting your local RICN office.

Please visit www.ricn.on.ca to access the RICN “Introduction to IPAC Education Series”

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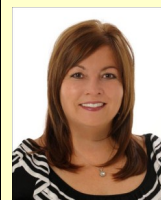
NWOICN is proud to announce that we have three successful graduates of the 2011 **RICN Non-Acute ICP Training Program!**

This unique CHICA-CANADA endorsed course consists of 12 modules delivered over a 12 month period with over 80 hours of course work. The content is delivered by IPAC experts from the RICNs.

Mentoring for all students is provided through their local RICN office. This program is intended for the ICP who is new in their role and/or has no other formal infection prevention and control training.

CERTIFICATES WERE AWARDED TO....

Sharon Carella, RN, BScN
Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre



Trevor Johnson, District Chief
Rainy River District EMS

Susan Van Teeffelen, RPN, ICP
SHOPPERS Home Health Care

Webber Teleclasses - www.webbertraining.com

December 1
[STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING HAND HYGIENE COMPLIANCE IN THE ICU](#)

December 7 (Free WHO Teleclass)
[BEST PRACTICE FOR CLEANING, DISINFECTION AND STERILIZATION IN HEALTHCARE](#)

December 15
[SURGICAL IMPLANTS BEING REPROCESSED - WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?](#)



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