

Testing for Clostridium difficile

The Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program (HRLMP) released a very comprehensive review of molecular methods for identifying Clostridium difficile "A New Real-Time PCR Method for Detection of Toxigenic Clostridium difficile at the HRLMP." Take a moment to read this fascinating article, [click here](#).

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.

RICN LONG TERM CARE IPAC EDUCATION SERIES

The RICN Long Term Care 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 Long-term Care IPAC Education Series.

TIBDN Education Days Toronto Invasive Bacterial Diseases Network will once again be hosting their *education series in November*. The days are open to all microbiology, infection control, public health, and infectious diseases staff. Everyone is welcome and there is no registration fee. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer

Regional News...

The Northwestern Health Unit recently published its Public Health Report Card for 2011. The Report Card is available at the Northwestern Health Unit Web site: <http://www.nwhu.on.ca>

The Report Card provides an overview of Health Unit services and issues in the 2010 calendar year. Told through the stories of local people in the northwest, the Report Card aims to explain the how and why of public health and includes a combination of health indicators, performance measures and a description of services and programs provided in the local area.

For more information about the Public Health Report Card 2011, or to request a printed copy, please contact Mark Perrault, Chief Executive Officer, mperrault@nwhu.on.ca, (807) 468-3147 ext. 260.

Webber Teleclasses - www.webbertraining.com

October 4, 2011—1:30-2:30 EST (Webber Teleclass) (Free WHO Teleclass - Europe) MRSA - Is Search & Destroy the Way To Go?

October 6, 2011—1:30-2:30pm EST (Webber Teleclass) Using Metals in Infection Prevention - A Welcome Addition or a Retrograde Step?

October 13, 2011—1:30-2:30pm EST (Webber Teleclass) Infection Prevention and Control in Long Term Care Facilities

FOCUS on

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

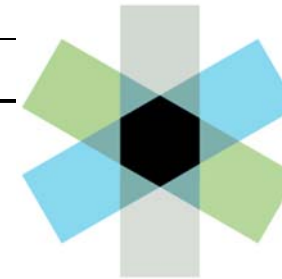
Regional Infection Control Network
Northwestern Ontario

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

Summer/Fall 2011

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Something New.... Our Name and Look!

Our new name, Public Health Ontario, or Santé publique Ontario in French, is a distinctive, easy-to-say name that reflects OAHPP's provincial role in protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians and reducing inequities in health. Our new tagline, "Partners for health," emphasizes our philosophy of collaborating with others to achieve shared goals. Our new brand speaks to

our role as a hub organization that links public health practitioners, front-line health workers and researchers to the best scientific intelligence and knowledge from around the world. Our website has a refreshed look and has been reorganized with users in mind. You can continue to access it at www.oahpp.ca



What is Antimicrobial Stewardship?

Antimicrobial stewardship is defined by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) as an activity that promotes the appropriate selection, dose, route and duration of antimicrobial therapy. The goals of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (ASP) focus on quality of patient care by optimizing clinical outcomes while minimizing unintended consequences of antimicrobial use such as the emergence of resistant organisms.

The increasing recognition of the health burden associated with healthcare acquired infections emphasizes the urgency of developing ASPs in healthcare. In Ontario, antimicrobial resistance has emerged in all of the major hospital bacterial pathogens and the continuing increase in the rate of resistance contributes to adverse patient outcomes and mortality¹.

In Canada, mobilization against antibiotic resistance began in the mid 1990's with a focus on decreasing resistance in the major community pathogen, *S. pneumoniae*. Programs were developed to assist physicians and communities to decrease unnecessary outpatient antibiotic use. Since then, programs for institutions have been established using a variety of models and with noteworthy success. These effective and beneficial programs have sparked province-wide interest and are inspiring many healthcare professionals in hospitals to get involved in stewardship.

For more on Antimicrobial Stewardship visit the IDSA website to find their free article "Developing an Institutional Program to Enhance Antimicrobial Stewardship". This document provides a comprehensive perspective on ASP's and direction on the components of the program. In addition to this resource, there are many others available – contact your local RICN office for assistance!

1. McGeer A, Fleming CA, Willey BM, Green KA, Low DE. Antimicrobial resistance in common hospital pathogens in Ontario. Quality Management Program – Laboratory Services News July 2007, Issue No. 116.

NWOICN LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS

October 20, 2011
"Using Excel for Surveillance"
Mabel Lim

November 17, 2011
"Invasive Group A Strep"
" Dr. Allison McGreer

December 15, 2011
"Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda: Tips & Tricks for Working with CDI"
Stephanie Ralph & Virginia Tirilis

These Sessions are offered via Videoconference/Teleconference/ Live and Archived Webcast

If you would like to register your site for these videoconferences, please contact Carrie Pettit by phone 807-683-1755 or by email

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Ask the Expert: *Dr. Marina Salvadori, Medical Coordinator, South Western Ontario Infection Control Network.*

Question: I work in a Family Health Team Office . What can I do to control Antibiotic Resistant Organisms In my Clinic Setting?

Answer: The patients we care for frequently have complex medical issues. They are discharged from hospital quickly and with ongoing medical conditions that require continued care. When in hospital, patients with drug resistant organisms are isolated and put on additional infection prevention and control (IPAC) precautions. When they are discharged home, there may be no additional precautions needed. On follow up with their family doctor, they may sit in a

waiting room with medically fragile patients.

The risk of disease transmission in the clinic is lower than in the acute care hospital as there are fewer encounters with health care staff, shorter contact times and exposures are to smaller bacterial numbers. Unfortunately, there is little to no surveillance of patients in this setting, so data is weak to non-existent. There are case reports of transmission of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin resistant *Enterococci* (VRE) in the ambulatory setting, but these occurred in dialysis units and HIV clinics. Cases of community onset *Clostridium difficile* (C. diff) infection and community-associated MRSA in patients with few or no traditional risk factors are being noted more frequently. With little robust evidence to guide IPAC practices in the ambulatory setting, most are based on extrapolation from acute care and the application of first principles.

Large bacterial numbers and contamination of the environment facilitates the transmission of MRSA, VRE and C. diff, but most transmission occurs from the health care professional. Good IPAC activities in the clinic include:

- Encouraging patients to clean their hands with alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) on arrival.
- Cleaning hands prior to contact with patients or their environment, before doing any aseptic procedure, after exposure to body fluids and after removing gloves.
- Instituting Contact Precautions (use gloves, gowns, etc.) when caring for patients with open wounds. Clean hands before putting on gloves and after removing them. When splashing is anticipated (e.g. from wound irrigation), a procedure mask and eye protection are also recommended.
- Cleaning the office daily and ensuring that high touch surfaces like door knobs and toilet seats are cleaned more frequently. PIDAC's Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections can provide more information on cleaning and disinfection frequencies.
- Washing toys with soap and water, disinfecting with a 1:100 bleach solution and air drying them, ideally between patients, but definitely at the end of each day is also recommended.

References: A Matlow, S Morris Control of Antibiotic Resistant bacteria in the office and clinic. CMAJ May 12, 2009 180(10) 1021-1024. Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee, Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections. Dec 8, 2009

Top 10 reasons Health Care Workers fail to wash hands (Courtesy of CSISN)

In a hand hygiene improvement project by the Joint Commission's Center for Transforming Healthcare, the following common barriers to compliance were observed across the eight participating hospitals.

- Ineffective placement of dispensers or sinks
- Hand hygiene compliance data are not collected or reported accurately or frequently
- Lack of accountability and just-in-time coaching
- Safety culture does not stress hand hygiene at all levels
- Ineffective or insufficient education
- Hands full
- Wearing gloves interferes with process
- Perception that hand hygiene is not needed if wearing gloves
- Health care workers forget
- Distractions



BOOT CAMP CREATES BUZZ AT CHICA CONFERENCE!

The Regional Infection Control Networks hosted 300 participants at the first ever IP&C Boot Camp! This was the largest registration to date for a CHICA preconference day. The military theme engaged the audience with a PPE fashion show, interactive clickers, group work and presentations.

Participants learned about the Chain of Transmission, Routine Practices and Additional Precautions, Outbreak Management and Occupational Health issues.

To read more about this day go to the RICN website— www.ricn.on.ca.

To access the handouts from the Boot Camp Preconference Day go to http://www.chica.org/about_join.php and click on the section titled:

Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) Boot Camp for Healthcare Workers I'm Not an ICP but Sometimes They Make Me Do It! - Presentations from CHICA-Canada 2011 National Education Conference

ARE YOU PLANNING ON WRITING YOUR CIC EXAM IN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS?

The **Public Health Ontario Regional Infection Control Network (RICN)** is offering a **CIC Exam Prep** lunch hour series by videoconference/webcast to assist you to prepare to write the Certification Exam in Infection Control & Epidemiology.

Monday, October 24, 2011 12-1pm	General information about CIC Education and Research
Monday, October 31, 2011 12-1pm	Identification of Infectious Disease Processes
Monday, November, 2011 12-1pm	Surveillance and Epidemiology Investigation
Monday, November 14, 2011 12-1pm	Surveillance and Epidemiology Investigation Outbreak Investigation
Monday, November 21, 2011 12-1pm	Preventing and Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents Part 1: Sterilization/ disinfection, environmental cleaning and construction
Wednesday, November 30, 2011 12-1pm	Preventing and Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents Part 2: HH, dialysis, clinical areas, AROs
Monday, December 5, 2011 12-1pm	Employee Occupational Health
Monday, December 12, 12-1pm	Management and Communication Strategies for Exam Writing

If you are interested in attending, please register by **October 17, 2011** by filling in the online form located at; <http://ricn.on.ca/cic-exam-prep-series-registration-p1863.php>.