



**WINTER 2010**

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**NWOICN Education....**

There is still room to register for the NWOICN Lunch & Learns for 2010. These Lunch & Learns will take place on the following dates and times:

- **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

If you would like to register your site for these Lunch & Learns by video/teleconference contact Carrie Pettit by phone (807) 683-1755 or email [pettitc@tbh.net](mailto:pettitc@tbh.net).

You can view previous Lunch & Learn sessions via Webcast by visiting the OTN Webcasting Centre at: <http://webcast.otn.ca/archives.html>

## Just Clean Your Hands Adapted for Use in Long-Term Care!



The Just Clean Your Hands program created for acute care settings has now been designed especially for Long Term Care! This is exciting news as throughout the development and rollout of JCYH- Acute Care there were many requests from LTC about implementing the program in their homes.

In the fall of 2008 the MOHLTC began looking at how this program could be adapted for LTC settings and soon development was in progress including focus groups with stakeholders from LTC and the establishment of a task force to provide expert advice for creation of the program components.

Early in the new year, each Long Term Care home will receive a letter announcing the program and a JCYH-LTC Training Kit. Following this, the program will rollout across the province between January and April 2010 with corresponding training sessions offered by the Regional Infection Control Networks. For more information visit the RICN website [www.ricn.on.ca](http://www.ricn.on.ca) or call your local RICN office for training details.

### RICN Non-Acute Care ICP Training Program Achievement!



The RICN Non-Acute Care Infection Control Professional (ICP) Training Program Working Group is pleased to announce that the RICN Non Acute Care ICP Training Program has now received CHICA-Canada endorsement. This means that we can use the official CHICA-Canada logo and the designation "Endorsed by CHICA-Canada" on our course materials and advertising.

This endorsement means that this program meets the stringent criteria established by CHICA-Canada and will be listed on the CHICA-Canada website alongside other established training programs. Our course is unique in that it has been designed specifically for ICPs in non acute care settings in Ontario such as, long term care, primary healthcare, home healthcare and public health. The program consists of 12 modules that are delivered over a 12 month period. It is intended for the ICP who is new in their role and \or has no other formal infection prevention and control training. If you are interested in this program and would like more detail contact your local RICN office or visit our website!

## One More Reason to Become a CHICA-Canada Member!

<http://www.chica.org/AuditToolkit/toolkithome.html>



Frequently in the *Focus On* news we promote the many benefits of membership with CHICA-Canada. This month, there is another very good reason to join Canada's only national, professional association for Infection Prevention and Control.

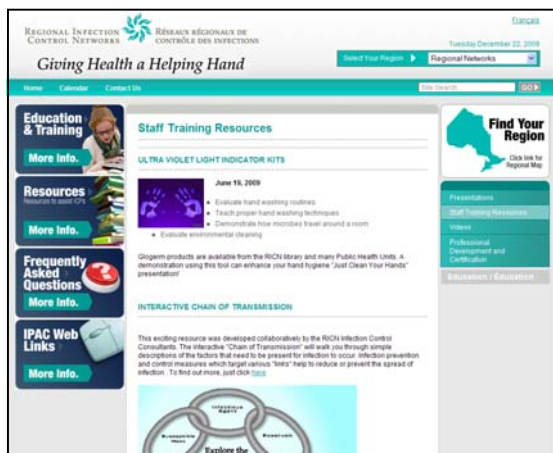
CHICA-Canada is pleased to announce the launch of 10 Infection Prevention and Control audit tools for CHICA-Canada members as part of National Infection Control Week. These tools are the first of a series that will be released over the next few months. We hope that these audit tools will support you to measure your success at moving best evidence into best practices in your organizations. The full audit toolkit will be available at the June 2010 conference.

The CHICA-Canada audit tools in this toolkit include:

- hand hygiene (readiness and practice)
- use of additional precautions (AP)
- use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- cleaning and disinfection of client/patient/resident equipment
- healthcare environment cleaning (including ward/department kitchens)
- hemodialysis practices, equipment, facility and management of AROs
- prehospital/emergency services
- outbreak management
- disinfection and sterilization in the doctor's office
- operating room infection prevention and control practices, asepsis and surgical scrub

The data derived from audits can be used to direct the infection prevention and control program's annual goals and objectives. It also will assist in meeting the needs of the health care setting in relation to infection prevention and control standards and safer health care practices. CHICA Members now have access — just sign on with your member's username and password!

## Featuring....New Resources on the RICN Website!



If you haven't checked out the RICN website recently we invite you to visit and discover "what's new". Over the past few months there have been new features added that we think you might find useful!

- The Interactive Chain of Transmission
- Workshop Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- The Infection Prevention and Control Pocket Guide for Acute Care Settings
- Practical Web Links
- Educational Event Calendar
- Resources that are offered in both French and English
- About the RICN and much more....

In addition to searching the Provincial RICN website browse the regional sites by clicking on the drop down box that says "Select your Region". On the Regional Web Pages you can find local news and library listings as well as a variety of interesting tools and unique resources. To find the website search "RICN Ontario" OR connect to [www.ricn.on.ca](http://www.ricn.on.ca)

## Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo

NWOICN is pleased to announce that we presented two displays at the recent Celebrating Innovations Expo held in Toronto following the Ontario Hospital Association Conference. There were over 200 displays chosen for this expo. One of our two presentations included one on our First Nations Reprocessing conference and related initiatives as submitted by Karen Clinker and Lorinda Christie Jacobsen (NWOICN steering committee representative). The other was a RICN collaborative presentation on the RICN Non Acute Care ICP Training Program (which is led by Pat Piaskowski). This was a great opportunity to showcase our achievements & partnership in NWOICN!

### *PIDAC Environmental Cleaning Best Practices Document*

The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has developed a comprehensive best practice document on environmental cleaning that should be released in early 2010. The Regional Infection Control Networks are collaborating with the Ontario Healthcare Housekeepers Association (OHHA) and the Canadian Association of Environmental Management (CAEM) to create a training program to support the provincial roll-out of the information, tools and resources in the document to environmental services staff in healthcare organizations across the province. A project team with environmental services representation from Ontario hospitals, long-term care homes and other healthcare agencies has been established and met in mid-December to start assembling the training curriculum. It is our goal to have training packages available to health care facilities across the province in Spring 2010.

For more information about this exciting project, contact:

Pat Piaskowski, [piaskowp@tbh.net](mailto:piaskowp@tbh.net)

### *CIC Success Story!*

Congratulations to Colleen Snelgrove for achieving her CIC certification. Colleen works at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre in the Infection Prevention & Control Department.



### *Making the Right Product Choices*

Recently the NWOICN offices have received calls about a number of products which make claims to kill H1N1 and other organisms using a variety of technologies

Please be aware of best practice guidance and other advisories prior to making product purchase decisions.

Firstly check to ensure that the product has a DIN (Drug Identification Number) from Health Canada. You can check the list of DIN registered products at this link <http://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>. Next review the PIDAC best practices for cleaning, disinfection and sterilization document to ensure that the product and its designated usage fall within these guidelines.

### *CHICA Canada Announces new board members, with terms commencing Jan 1, 2010*

Karen Clinker, Infection Control Consultant for NWOICN has been appointed as Director of Programs & Projects for the CHICA Canada Northwestern Ontario Committee for her second three-year term. Karen has done some great work with CHICA Canada and in particular, all of her hard work on the development of the Audit Tool Kit.



**Karen Clinker,**  
MEd, BScN,  
CCOHN, CIC

**Director, Programs  
& Projects**  
(three-year term)

Karen Clinker graduated from Nursing at Lakehead University in 1977. She moved to Alberta and spent 27 years as the Manager of Occupational Health and Safety and Disability Management under the Alberta Mental Health Board. She completed a master's degree in adult education at the University of Alberta in 1990.

Karen began full-time focus in infection prevention and control in 2004 with the David Thompson Health Region, and in 2006 with the Northwestern Ontario Regional Infection Control Network. She obtained her CIC in September 2005.

Karen is serving her second term as Director, Programs & Projects.

### *First Nations Sessions Prize Winners!*

(February 10 through April 28, 2009)

**The Grand Prize winner of a DVD Player & 2 DVDs is**  
**Zeatha Whitehead (Webequie)**

#### **Session Winners**

Victoria Kaminawash (Sachigo Lake)  
2 DVD's and an apron  
&

Johnny Neshinapaise (Webequie)  
2 DVD's and a blanket

**Congratulations, and thank you to all who attended!**

### VIROX Scholarship Fund

There is a generous funds National Education Conference Scholarship sponsored by Virox Technologies to provide financial assistance to eligible infection control practitioners to attend the CHICA-Canada annual national conference. The deadline for application is January 31, 2010.

Further information is available on the CHICA website at the link shown below.

[http://www.chica.org/opps\\_virox.html](http://www.chica.org/opps_virox.html)

Remember to Visit the NWOICN Network RICN Website for the Latest News, Resources, and More! ([www.ricn.on.ca](http://www.ricn.on.ca))



### Highlights from the IDSA 47th Annual Meeting

The following articles can be accessed through Medscape (free membership required).

[New Highly Virulent Strain of Vancomycin-Resistant MRSA Carries High Mortality Rate](#)

[Multidrug-Resistant Acinetobacter Infections Remain Prevalent In and Out of Hospital](#)

[Viral Shedding Prolonged in Children with H1N1 Flu, Especially Younger Children](#)

[Seasonal Flu Vaccine for Pregnant Mothers Protects Infants](#)

### Amendments to the Needle Safety Regulation

On July 1, 2010 the Needle Safety Regulation will be extended to community work environments including doctors' and dentists' offices, community health centres, family health teams and independent health facilities.

Attend an OSACH education workshop in February and March of 2010, to learn about these amendments.

visit <http://www.osach.ca/train/regional.shtml> to view the schedules and register for sessions.

### FAQ

Here is a great FAQ that was kindly shared by the Central South Infection Control Network;

#### *Can hand hygiene dispensers or bottles be "topped-up" or refilled?*

Hand hygiene dispensers should never be refilled or topped up. While it may seem counter-intuitive, certain germs are actually able to live in just about any type of hand hygiene product. Several studies have shown that multi-use products can become contaminated with disease-causing germs over time – this includes liquid soap, antimicrobial soaps, and even alcohol-based hand rubs.

Plain liquid soap is only meant to help get germs off of the skin – there aren't any products in it that actually kill germs. So, if dispensers are refilled or "topped-up" plain soaps can become contaminated quite easily. While antimicrobial soaps do have products in them that kill germs, there are increasing numbers of germs that are becoming resistant to the antimicrobial products that they contain. This may allow for contamination of these products by germs that are difficult to treat or kill.

Alcohol-based hand rubs contain between 60-90% alcohol. In these concentrations, alcohol is considered an intermediate-level germicide, but it is not sporicidal. Spore-forming bacteria, such as Bacillus species and Clostridium species can survive in alcohol at these concentrations. There have been reports of outbreaks associated with contaminated alcohol products.

These findings highlight the importance of following expert recommendations to not refill or "top-up" hand hygiene product dispensers due to the potential risk of infection.

Email us your question to [pettite@tbh.net](mailto:pettite@tbh.net).

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

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Northwestern Ontario

*Giving Health  
a Helping Hand*