



**N.W.O.I.C.N. Upcoming
Educational Conferences**

January

Microbiology 101 January 18, 2007 2-4pm EST
Videoconference. Speaker: Susan Cooper, IC Consultant
for SEOICN.

The objective of the session is to provide a brief
overview of basic Microbiology including the use of the
Gram stain to classify bacteria, bacterial and viral
replication and a brief summary of immunology and the
production of antibodies to fight infection

February

Rabies February 8, 2007 2-4 p.m. EST Videoconference.
Speaker: Lyle Wiebe, Program Manager Environmental
Health Northwestern Health Unit.

March

ARO Management March 22, 2007 2-4pm EST
Videoconference. Speaker: Pat Plaskowski, Network
Coordinator for NWOICN.

**January 31, 2007 "Surveillance On the Run"
conference. 8-4 p.m. EST**

Objectives:

1. Understand the factors that affect surveillance programs in healthcare facilities.
2. Develop strategies for a surveillance plan for their practice settings.
3. Be able to apply general guidelines used to evaluate clinical, epidemiologic and infection control literature.
4. Understand the major components of conducting an outbreak investigation.
5. Interpret epidemic curves in terms of possible outbreak patterns and sources.

Topics:

Surveillance in Health Care, Methods in Collecting Data, Reporting Results and Outbreak Management.

Target Audience: Acute Care, Long-Term Care & TBDHU, Northwestern Health Unit.

February 23, 2007 8-4 EST "Community Partners in the Know" Conference.

Objectives:

1. Appreciate the concepts of patient safety and duty of care as it pertains to infection control.
2. Familiarize themselves with the best practice documents from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.
3. Describe the infection control interventions for Hepatitis C, Community Acquired Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (CaMRSA), and Tuberculosis.

Target Audience: Community Agencies

Topics: Hand Hygiene, FRI, ARO & CA MRSA, C difficile, Safer Health Care Now and Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization.

For those outside of Thunder Bay videoconference is preferred. The locations for participating via videoconference are:

- Atikokan General Hospital Videoconference System 1 (Atikokan participants)
- Dryden Regional Health Centre (Dryden & Ignace participants)
- Riverside Health Care Facilities Laverandrye Hospital (Fort Frances & Rainy River participants)

- Nodin 54 Queen Street Sioux Lookout, (Sioux Lookout participants)
- Geraldton District Hospital Videoconference System 1 (Geraldton & Longlac participants)
- Community Care Access Centre Kenora, (Kenora participants)
- Wilson Memorial Hospital Videoconference System 1 (Marathon and Terrace Bay participants)
- Margaret Couchner Memorial Hospital Videoconference System (Red Lake participants)
- Manitouwadge General Hospital Videoconference System 1 (Manitouwadge participants)
- St. Joseph's Care Group Conference Room #3 Basement Level on Algoma Street (Thunder Bay & Nipigon participants)

March 5, 2007 "Winning Ways for Your Support Plays" Support Services Conference.

Objectives:

1. Appreciate the concepts of patient safety and duty of care as it pertains to infection control.
2. Familiarize themselves with the best practice documents from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.
3. Describe the infection control interventions for Hepatitis C, Community Acquired Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (CaMRSA), and Tuberculosis.

Other Topics:

Hand Hygiene, Routine Practices, Additional Precautions, Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization and Construction & Renovation.

These conferences are also accessible by videoconference.

For more information and to register for these conferences, contact Brandy Ponka by email ponkab@tbh.net or phone (807) 683-1755.

Webber Teleclass Schedule

Webber Teleclass is hosting these free teleclasses:

March 8, 2007 The Voices of CHICA 1:30 to 2:30 EST Speaker: CHICA Canada Board & Guests

April 12, 2007 Who's Afraid of the CIC Exam 1:30 to 2:30 EST Speaker: Sheila MacDonald & Krystofiak CBIC Board

July 3, 2007 Implementing Innovations in Health Services 8:30 a.m. EST Speaker: Clare Allen

July 26, 2007 CDC Guideline Review - Disinfection & Sterilization 1:30 to 2:30 EST Speaker: Dr. Bill Rutala UNC School of Medicine

August 9, 2007 Outcome Surveillance and Process Surveillance - Tools to Minimize Nosocomial Infection 1:30 to 2:30 EST Speaker: Dr. Victor Rosenthal, Medical College of Buenos Aires, Argentina

August 22, 2007 ESBLs - Where Are We Now 1:30 to 2:30 EST (rebroadcast) Speaker: Dr. Fong Chiew, Southern Community Laboratories, New Zealand

To register for these teleconferences, go to www.webbertraining.com and register through their main page. You need to become a member to register for these teleconferences.

Official registration forms are in development and should be available by the end of January 2007. Plans are underway to secure guest speakers.

Register for 2007! CHICA-Canada Membership forms for 2007 are now available from the CHICA website for downloading. Send yours in today!

**JANUARY &
FEBRUARY 2007
Volume 13**

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Report from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The next report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) containing comparative healthcare-associated infection rates for hospitals will be comprised of data from the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for the year 2006. The new report will be published in the *American Journal of Infection Control* and posted on their website in late spring of 2007. It will contain device-associated infection rates and device utilization ratios for various types of intensive care units and other patient care areas. It will not contain surgical site infection (SSI) rates or antimicrobial use and resistance (AUR) rates, as the amount of data for these calculations will be insufficient to produce stable estimates. Those who wish to compare SSI and AUR rates to the national aggregates may do so using the data in the 2004 NNIS

Report. http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/nnis_05delay.html#

Infection Control Education Institute

This site has 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 internet. You can register on this site for each webinar and to receive updates on upcoming webinars.

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

Links to Webinars

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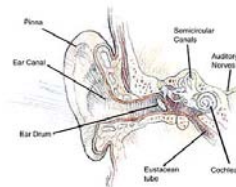
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<http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/>

<http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>

on-line C.difficile course at www.rmei.com/cdad507/

The Ear



The outer ear has normal flora similar to that of the skin. The middle and inner ear should be sterile

Ear infections are often caused by upper respiratory tract organisms which travel into the ear via the Eustacean tube.

Otitis externa: infection of the outer ear.

Otitis media: infection of the middle ear often accompanied by fluid accumulation. Often secondary to viral respiratory illness

Common Pathogens:

Otitis externa: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Swimmers ear)
Streptococcus pyogenes
Gram negative bacilli
Yeast
Fungi such as Aspergillus

Otitis media: *Streptococcus pneumoniae*; *Haemophilus influenzae* (most common cause in children); *Staphylococcus aureus*; *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Developed by: Susan Cooper MLT, Infection Control Consultant SEOICN

Blood Sweat & Fears III

From Stigma to Strategies A Forum on Hepatitis C. February 14-15 2007, Valhalla Inn Thunder Bay, Ontario

Topics

- Treatment Options; Youth and Women's Issues; Harm Reduction; Law Enforcement; Trends; Aboriginal Issues, and More

Who Should Attend

- Health Care Professionals; Staff and Boards of Social Service, Criminal Justice and Community Agencies; Emergency Responders; Those Infected with and Affected by Hepatitis C

Schedule & Fees

Wednesday, February 14, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and Thursday, February 15, 9:00am to 12:00 noon \$30 registration fee covers lunch on Day One, all refreshment breaks, all selected workshops plus Forum workbook. To register go to this link: www.bloodsweatandfears.ca

Wanting free on-line courses on Epidemiology?

Go to the link to the Public Health Agency of Canada online courses at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sehs-acss/index.html>

If you click on the "Module Descriptions" on the left, you'll see the list of courses. These courses are a good introduction to epidemiology for those who are working full-time because they are time-limited. The content is quite practical and aimed at a working audience. They are all done on-line, and there is currently no charge for them.

Web Pages That Perform Statistical Calculations

<http://statpages.org>. A wonderful resource for the mathematically challenged...!

Community Acquired-MRSA

In the past 18 months, CA-MRSA has started to appear throughout Ontario with increasing frequency. CA-MRSA strains are different from hospital-acquired strains. They occur in adults and children without any exposure to hospitals or healthcare. While they are sometimes associated with jails, intravenous drug use, and living on the street, they also occur without these risk factors. Some cases appear to be associated with travel to areas of the U.S. where community acquired MRSA is common (e.g. Texas and southern California).

Outbreaks have also been reported in sports teams with frequent skin to skin contact such as wrestling and football. Most infections with community acquired MRSA are skin infections. Typically the infection begins as a small cellulitis with a central necrotic area - people may think that they have a spider bite. By the time that patients are seen the infection is often a large abscess which may need to be drained.

In some areas like Victoria BC, the incidence of CA-MRSA increased rapidly after the initial reports. While we are not sure how quickly CA-MRSA will appear in Ontario healthcare providers should be aware of the potential.* For further information see the September/October 2006 issue of *Canadian Journal of Infectious Disease Medical Microbiology* for a supplement titled "Guidelines for the prevention and management of community-associated methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*: a perspective for Canadian healthcare practitioners". You may access a copy of this document through your RICN office or on-line at http://www.pulsus.com/infdis/17_SC/Pdf/mrsa_ed.pdf

* Thank you to the Toronto Invasive Bacterial Disease Network for sharing their article.

2007 Fall Symposium

There will be a 2007 Fall Symposium held at Totem Lodge on Lake of the Woods on September 18, 19, 20 2007 hosted by Kenora-Rainy River Regional Laboratory Program Inc.