
RICN Maternal Newborn Project Dissemination of Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations

SUMMARY

A 2007 review of Level III NICUs guided by the Specialized Paediatric Coordinating Council (SPCC) led to the creation of an Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Work Group, under the leadership of the Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health (PCMCH) in 2008 to recommend standardized recommendations that provide consistency when dealing with infection prevention and control within and between maternal and newborn units.

The consensus-based policies developed by the IPAC Work Group are now available and are in alignment with the current maternal newborn recommendations and the various best practice documents developed by the Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC). They can be accessed electronically at <http://www.pcmch.on.ca/infectionprevention.htm>. It is these recommendations that have guided the training sessions along with other supporting materials.

Project

The initial steps of the project required us to identify all Level I, II and III sites along with key staff members and their contact information. Once the initial search was completed, an introductory letter was sent to introduce the project and to recruit Program Champions from all sites with NICU/ Nurseries. On January 5, 2010, a memo was sent to the following members:

- Hospital CEO/ Administrators
- VP/Director of Perinatal Program
- Medical Director of NICU
- Medical Director of Obstetrics
- Medical Director of Perinatal Program
- Manager of Obstetrics
- Manager of NICU/Nursery
- Manager of Infection Control Department.

In an effort to develop comprehensive materials for the Maternal-Newborn Project, it was essential to understand what the needs were within the Programs. To do so, three surveys were developed. Members were asked to complete the survey that suited their setting/job title best. Available surveys were:

- Survey for Level I Program
- Survey for Level II & III Program
- Survey for Infection Control Professionals in all Levels of Care

These surveys yielded a wealth of information and guided the next steps of this project; the training sessions. Three interactive training sessions were developed and offered to the Champions, ICPs and all those wishing to increase their IPAC knowledge within this sector. A total of six hours of training included the following topics:

- Day one: Routine Practices, defining the environment and syndromic surveillance
- Day two: EBM and Group B Streptococcus
- Day three: HIV, HBV, HCV, and Varicella Zoster/Herpes Zoster

The training sessions were held March 8, 9, and 10, 2010. **The sessions were available by videoconference, Live Webcast and were also archived on Ontario Telehealth Network (OTN).** Participants were offered the opportunity to attend in a group setting at their local RICN office if they so wished. Evaluations revealed positive learnings and an obvious need for this material and support as they revised their current policies and practices.

To maintain open discussion regarding current issues, teleconferences and videoconferences were offered to encourage a “Community of Practice” amongst those working in a Maternal Newborn setting. **A series of teleconferences was initiated in March and continued until the end of June.** Evaluations also revealed that participants appreciated the open discussion and being provided with answers to their many questions. Members were asked to provide questions ahead of time to facilitate the discussion. **Responses to questions were compiled and directed back to the participants.**

Final Steps

Finally, a training package **has been developed and includes the following items:**

- CDs of the training sessions
- Slide presentations
- Tools and training materials
- Any materials sent in by members such as policies and practices
- A list of references and links to important websites
- A copy of the Blue Book
- Other items as deemed beneficial

This package will facilitate the search of materials necessary to improve current IPAC practices in the Maternal Newborn settings.

An evaluation of this project **was completed in June** through a survey distributed to all participants. All gathered information will be forwarded to the MOHLTC along with a recommendation that continuity and continuous support be provided as improvements to current practices are made within each program.

Respectfully submitted

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