



focus

on infection prevention and control

A Newsletter from the South Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network

How Clean is Clean Enough?

The South Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network in Partnership with CHICA-Eastern Ontario is pleased to present a one-day conference on Environmental Cleaning. This conference will address the challenges and offer solutions to our current approach to cleaning.

When: Tuesday February 12th, 2008

Registration: 8:00 am

Where: Donald Gordon Centre, 421 Union St., Kingston

Who Should Attend: Housekeeping / Environmental Services, Infection Control Professionals, Nursing, Occupational Health, Safety

Cost: \$50 per registrant (**Registration is limited**)

Conference Objectives:

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of environmental cleanliness in relation to healthcare acquired infections.
2. Recognize the unique environmental challenges related to specific organisms such as *C. difficile*, Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus and Norovirus
3. Describe cleaning strategies and practice enhancements which address the "hidden" microbial reservoir in the health care environments.
4. Offer suggestions to enhance current environmental practices.

For further information or to register please contact Marianne Walker at walkerm1@kgh.kari.net

Or check the SEOICN web site at www.ricn.on.ca

Report on Flash Sterilization

On December 11, 2007 the Ontario Auditor General released their annual report.

Contained in Chapter 3 of the report:

Hospitals—Management and Use of Surgical Facilities, are recommendations for the management of surgical instruments. The Auditor General found that hospitals audited were using 'flash sterilization' when there was a shortage of instruments and not enough time between surgical cases to clean and sterilize instruments before they were needed again. Health Canada's Infection Control Guidelines and the Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) "Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sterilization in all health care settings," both indicate that flash sterilization is 'not recommended' and should only be used in emergency situations (such as when an instrument is dropped during surgery). In view of their findings

the following recommendations were made:

To ensure that cleaned and sterilized instruments are available when needed, hospitals should:

1. Re-examine the practice of using flash sterilization in non-emergency situations.
2. Maintain records of all flash sterilization that is used which includes instruments flashed, surgeon's name and patient's name.
3. Review the cost and benefits of implementing an instrument management system to track instrument location and status.
4. Determine if surgical resources are being used efficiently and effectively by implementing the information provided in the Surgical Efficiencies Target Program.

On November 28th, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and PIDAC provided a videoconference on flash sterilization. The archived presentation is available at www.webcast.otn.ca.

The Report of the Audit General 2007 is available at www.auditor.on.ca

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**Webber Training
Jan/Feb Schedule**

**Jan 10, 2008
The Global Problem
of Antimicrobial Res-
istance What Can the
Public Hospitals and
Government Do?
Dr. Elaine Larson**

**Jan 31, 2008
Patient Empowerment
& Measurement for
Hand Hygiene
Dr. Maryanne
McGuckin**

**Feb 14 2008
LTC- *Clostridium
difficile* in Long Term
Care
Dr. Andy Simor**

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IPAC FUNDING RESOURCES

**REGISTERED NURSES FOUNDATION OF
ONTARIO (RNFOO) & MOLSON CANADA
SARS MEMORIAL FUND**

The SARS memorial fund for Infection Control Practitioners is a tuition / certification / professional development reimbursement program funded by the Molson Canada SARS Concert in 2003 and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

RNFOO manages the SARS Memorial Fund which was initiated in January 2005. The fund provides grants to Infection Control Professionals to support them in advancing their knowledge to lead infection control practices within their healthcare settings. Grants can be applied to continuing education, certification / recertification and professional development.

You do not need to be a nurse to apply for this grant. See www.rnfoo.org for details

**VIROX NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND –
Deadline February 1, 2008**

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to eligible Infection Control Professionals to attend the CHICA – Canada annual national conference. Selection criteria is based on a number of elements including attendance and participation in national CHICA – Canada or local Chapter executive or committee positions, poster presentations, and financial need. The scholarship award is up to \$2,000.00 per recipient to be used for reimbursement of expenses incurred at the conference. Applications must be submitted in writing no later than February 1, 2008. For more information visit:

http://www.chica.org/opps_virox.html

**ECOLAB Poster Contest – Deadline January 31,
2008**

An Annual Poster Contest is sponsored by Ecolab and supported by one of the Chapters of CHICA-Canada. This contest gives Infection Control Professionals an opportunity to put their creative talents to work in developing a poster which visually embodies the Infection Control Week theme. Artistic talent is not required as the chosen concept for the poster will be developed for production by a graphic designer.

The theme for 2008 is “**Antibiotic Resistant Organisms – A Call to Action!**” The winner of the contest is announced at the national CHICA –Canada Conference. Winners receive full registration at the next CHICA – Canada Conference.

Thanks to Laurie Boyer, NEOICN, Infection Control Consultant for contributing this article.

**Screening for Antibiotic
Resistant Organisms (ARO)**

The Regional Infection Control Networks throughout the province are supporting screening recommendations as outlined in the Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee’s (PIDAC) Best Practices For Infection Prevention and Control of Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and Enterococci. (March 2007)

The information published in this document is evidence based, and, is considered to be the minimum standard for surveillance strategies for health care organizations. Some hospitals have embarked on ARO screening of all patients. The results of their screening initiatives will add to the scientific evidence which informs PIDAC recommendations.

Decisions around surveillance for AROs should be carefully weighed. Infection Control Committees need to consider current epidemiological trends in their catchment area; financial implications of enhanced screening and the ability of their organization to implement timely and effective measures based on these laboratory results.

For more information on the Best Practices document visit

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/pidac/pidac_mn.html

TB Standards 2007

The new Canadian TB Standards, 6th Edition (2007) have been released and can be found at the Public Health Agency of Canada or by following this link

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/pubs/tbstand07-eng.php>

