

FOCUS_{on}

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Giving Health a Helping Hand

REGIONAL INFECTION CONTROL NETWORKS  RÉSEAUX RÉGIONAUX DE CONTRÔLE DES INFECTIONS

Donner un coup de main à la santé

Fall 2010

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International Infection Prevention Week: Stronger Together!

Infection Control Week (ICW) has been celebrated by Infection Prevention and Control Societies since the early 1980's. In 2009, CHICA-Canada led an international meeting in St John's Newfoundland to discuss how to make the third week of October a truly *International* Infection Control Week. The idea has grown and flourished with resources from around the world being shared! The International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) IFIC is launching this exciting collaboration on their website this year and similar pages are available on the APIC and CHICA websites.



Commemorate
International
Infection
Prevention
Week
October 17-23, 2010



It's Not too Late to Prepare!

"The keys to success [in Infection Prevention and Control] are knowledgeable health care workers, an informed public, and an awareness that infection control is everyone's business." (CHICA-Canada IC Week Proclamation, 1989)

Participating in *National Infection Control Week* October 18 to 22 provides organizations the opportunity to highlight Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) efforts and raise the profile of infection control. IC Week is an opportunity to have fun while educating staff and community members about the importance of infection control.

If you aren't ready for *National Infection Control Week* at your organization, visit the Regional Infection Control Network website at www.ricn.on.ca for activities and tools that are ready-to-use!

- Routine Practices and Additional Precautions pre-recorded education session for front-line staff
- Antibiotic Resistant Organisms pre-recorded education session for front-line staff
- Refreshed idea primer and activity package (puzzles, scavenger hunt, activity templates)
- Electronic games for environmental and dietary services staff
- Electronic game about influenza for use with all staff
- Bug of the Month fact sheets for use over the next 12 months

Throughout *National Infection Control Week*, stakeholders will receive a daily e-mail from their RICN. ICPs and Senior Managers will also be invited to participate in several pre-recorded, archived resilience building sessions for teams on Positive Deviance and Culture Change. Contact your local RICN for details!

A New Home & New Look for the RICNs

The Regional Infection Control Networks have a new home with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)!

You may have noticed the OAHPP logo alongside the RICN logo on letters and newsletters such as this one over the past few months. The transition to the OAHPP means that the important work of the RICNs at the local level will be part of a coordinated and integrated provincial strategy.

As part of OAHPP, RICNs will have better access to scientific and technical expertise and in turn, will be able to keep the agency up-to-date on issues that are relevant to the field to facilitate knowledge exchange and training.

Environmental Cleaning Toolkits Now Available

The *Environmental Cleaning Best Practices Educational Toolkit* is now ready for distribution to all healthcare facilities and public health units across the province. This toolkit is a resource to assist those involved in the education and training of Environmental Services (ES) staff on best practices for environmental cleaning in health care facilities.

Each toolkit consists of:

- Six learning modules on CDs reflective of the content in the PIDAC best practices document for environmental cleaning
- A DVD with seven sample cleaning procedures
- Power point presentations with speaker notes that allow instructors to modify the presentations
- A leader's guide to assist the instructor in planning education sessions
- Summary sheets as handouts
- Quizzes, posters and other useful tools

Information sessions on the toolkit will be held by videoconference through the OHA on **October 28th** and **November 3rd**. **Save the date!**

For your toolkit, contact your local Regional Infection Control Network www.ricn.on.ca.



New ONTARIO REGULATION 79/10 made under the LONG-TERM CARE HOMES ACT, 2007

On July 1st, 2010, the new Long-Term care Homes Act, 2007 was proclaimed. Along with this, the Ontario Regulation, 79/10 section 229, was introduced. This replaces the "old standards" that governed LTC. The new Act will replace the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act, the Nursing Homes Act, and the Charitable Institutions Act to become the single legislative authority over LTC Homes.

The impact for LTC Homes with regard to the IPAC program is that the new Regulations state that there must be a staff member designated to co-ordinate the program and they must have education and experience in infection prevention and control practices, including the following:

- Infectious diseases
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Data Collection and trend analysis
- Reporting Protocols
- Outbreak Management

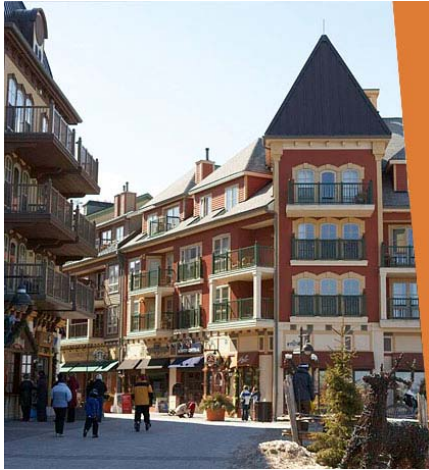
Other aspects of these revisions include: daily, required activities, additional IPAC requirements such as surveillance, hand hygiene program, immunization and screening measures, foot care and nail care, skin and wound care, housekeeping and training.

We have posted to the RICN website a summary of the changes titled '*The Long Term Care Homes Act: Key IPAC Points*' for your reference. It can be found at www.ricn.on.ca

The new Long-Term Care Homes Act is available through E-laws at the link below

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2010/elaws_src_regs_r10079_e.htm

CAEM Conference *DID IT RIGHT* ✓



The Conference and Trade show held at Blue Mountain Resort September 19–21st was a great success and enjoyed by all attendees. The event – *priceless!*

Dr. Dick Zoutman opened the conference on the Sunday evening with *Creating a Business Case for Best Practices*. He gave highlights on hospital costs pertaining to aspects such as: hospital structure costs, variable costs, indirect costs, intangible costs and microscopic

costs. He also identified that the 3 *pillars* of infection prevention and control should concentrate on: Surveillance, Environment and Routine Practices. As well, the Canadian Hospitals Environmental Services Survey (C.H.E.S.S.) was introduced. The goals of this survey is to assess environmental resources and practices, provide strategies for improvement to help reduce healthcare-acquired infections, reduce morbidity and mortality and health care costs.

Dr. Mary Vearncombe's intro to PIDAC's Environmental document placed focus on distinctions between high touch vs low touch surfaces and hotel clean vs hospital clean practices. Her key message was to get rid of the **D.I.R.T.** (Doing It Right TOGETHER!)

Dr. Maureen Cividino reviewed *Occupational Health Issues in Environmental Services* reviewing legislative requirements for all healthcare aspects including standards and guidelines, protocols for bloodborne pathogens, and the importance and interpretation of "risk assessment".

Dr. Syed Sattar emphasized that 'wiping' is an integral part of cleaning and that an incorrect product and process may actually increase risk of pathogen spread. Housekeeping staff require ongoing training and monitoring since there are multiple barriers they bring such as language and constant turn around. He also reviewed other technologies other than chemical disinfectants which are being marketed.

In addition, personal facility and industry experiences and successes were shared by Jo-Anne Vandierendonck, Cindy O'Neill, Doug Quong and Dean Waisman. Liz Rykert lead several interactive sessions engaging participants on techniques to *Change the Culture*.

Finally! Time was well spent on the introduction and review of the components of the toolkit. Each health care facility/sites and public health units will receive two toolkits over the next few weeks. One kit is to be given to the person(s) holding the infection control role and the other to the environmental/maintenance supervisor/manager section of the facility.

The Universal Influenza Immunization Program 2010/2011

The trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine for 2010-2011 will provide protection against the following strains:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus (pandemic H1N1 2009 virus; pH1N1)
- A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

Recommendations are based on epidemiological, genetic and serological tests on influenza virus isolates collected in the fall/early winter months of 2009-2010.

Current influenza activity in temperate countries in the southern hemisphere (Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa) provides us with information on possible influenza scenarios during the winter months in the northern hemisphere. WHO reports that seasonal influenza A/H1N1 viruses are undetectable in all five countries and that there has been variable circulation in each country of influenza pH1N1, A/H3N2 and B viruses. On August 10, 2010, WHO declared the 2009 pandemic as ended and that we have entered the post-pandemic period. Severity of pH1N1 is unpredictable and that it will likely take on the behaviour of a seasonal virus and co-circulate with other seasonal influenza strains.

All individuals aged 6 months or older, who live, work or attend school in Ontario, and who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive the publicly-funded influenza vaccine. Special consideration to receive the vaccine has been identified in the following groups since they experienced higher rates of pH1N1-related hospitalization and more severe outcomes last year: persons with morbid obesity (BMI \geq 40), Aboriginal peoples and healthy children 2-4 years of age.

Mark Your Calendar!

WEBBER TRAINING

October

- 21 Methods of Monitoring Hand Hygiene Frequency and Compliance
- 27 Infection Control in the Tropics
- 28 Implementing Mandatory Vaccination for Healthcare Workers

November

- 4 Using Social Marketing to Prevent Healthcare Associated Infection
- 9 Why are Noroviruses Such Successful Pathogens in Healthcare Settings?
- 18 Infection Prevention Strategies in the Home Care Setting

December

- 2 Validation of Special Ventilation Systems in Healthcare Facilities
- 9 Do Decolonization Strategies Work for MRSA?
- 16 *Clostridium difficile*: The Sinister Spore Saga

LUNCH AND LEARNS

2010

- October 21—Norovirus
- November 18—UTIs and ESBL
- December 16—Monitoring your Sterile Process for Foot Care

2011

- January 13—Ministry of Labour—IPAC Consultant Role
- February 17—Micro Session—Gram Positives and Negatives
- March 17—Using Glow Germ for Auditing
- April 21—Considerations for IC during Construction
- May 19—Nursing Week and Infection Control
- June 16—Legionnaire's
- September 15—IPAC Auditing

C. diff Outbreak Guide

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recently released "Control of *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Outbreaks in Hospitals, A Guide for Hospital and Health Unit Staff." The purpose of this guide is to support the appropriate management of CDI outbreaks by:

- Defining the roles of the hospital and public health staff in outbreak control processes;
- Providing specific guidance for CDI outbreak control, and;
- Providing a compilation of tools and resources for management of CDI outbreaks.

Although this guide is primarily intended for hospital infection prevention and control teams and health unit staff, the principles of CDI outbreak management apply to other facilities such as long-term care and retirement homes. To access this guide, go to:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/patient_safety/pro/cdad/pro_resource/guide_cdi_infect_control.pdf

Need Help with TST QFT Interpretation?

This on-line tool, developed by Dr. Dick Menzies and colleagues in Montreal, is an excellent resource for calculating the:

- likelihood that a positive tuberculin skin test result is a true positive
- annual risk of development of active TB disease
- cumulative risk of active TB disease up to age 80.

It takes into account the TST result, Quantiferon result if available and various other risk factors.

Go ahead, try it out!

<http://www.tstin3d.com/index.html#>

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



REGIONAL INFECTION
CONTROL NETWORKS

South Eastern Ontario

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*

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