

SUMMER 2010

Inside this Issue

CHICA-CANADA CONFERENCE	PAGE 1
ACTIVITY PLANNING	PAGE 2
CAEM/RICN CONFERENCE	PAGE 2
CORE COMPETENCY	PAGE 3
ARO POINT PREVALENCE SURVEY	PAGE 3
REGIONAL SURVEILLANCE	PAGE 3
OAHPP WELCOME MESSAGE	PAGE 4
LUNCH AND LEARN	PAGE 4
CIC PREP DAY	PAGE 4
INFECTION CONTROL WEEK	PAGE 4

CHICA-Canada Conference

May 29 – June 3, 2010

Staff from the Regional Infection Control Networks were proud to highlight the work of Infection Control Professionals across Ontario at the recent CHICA-Canada Conference held in Vancouver. In fact, seven of the oral presentations were made by RICN staff, and RICNs were involved in presenting or supporting numerous posters on Infection Control initiatives.



Well done, Ontario!

The next CHICA-Canada conference is being held in Toronto from May 29 to June 3, 2011. We will once again have a great opportunity to showcase our works. Think about your local experiences and consider submitting an abstract to help inform others of your good work! Have you successfully averted an outbreak, tried a new way to educate staff, standardized a process in your facility for surveillance, brought in a new policy that has made a difference to patient care, developed an audit, created a tool to help staff practice more safely, dealt with an unusual situation..... the possibilities are endless! If you have thoughts about an issue or project you would like to share, and you need coaching or assistance in putting your thoughts together and writing up an abstract, talk to the folks in your RICN office. It is not as overwhelming a process as it might appear and it gives a great sense of accomplishment and professional pride to see your work highlighted in this way.

One exciting opportunity we are particularly excited about for next year's conference is the first ever Designates Day (Monday May 31, 2011). Targeted at individuals who are involved in infection prevention and control activities but are not specifically assigned the role of Infection Control Professional at their organization, this full-day session will support and expand understanding with a view to expanding their IPAC role. For more information, visit

www.chica.org



Hand Hygiene Trees

can be borrowed from the
SEOICN Library!



Planning Your IPAC Activities in LTC

The goals of any Infection Prevention and Control program are to protect residents from health care associated infections and to prevent the spread of infections between residents, staff, visitors and others in the health care environment. Below are some activities that Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) engage in to meet these goals over the course of a year.



Summer is a great time to take stock of the IPAC program. Assess areas of strength and identify areas where improvements are needed. Additionally, use the summer months to look ahead and plan your influenza vaccine campaign roll out and Infection Control Week celebrations (Infection Control Week 2010 is October 18 – 22). Resources are available for your use! To access them, contact your local RICN.

Autumn is an opportunity to reach out to the front-lines! Provide education to staff regarding influenza vaccination, healthy workplace policy, proper hygiene, and effective control of infections. Remind residents and visitors to report signs and symptoms of illness and avoid contact with others while symptoms persist.

Winter can be a challenging time for ICPs – enhanced surveillance to detect possible outbreaks and emphasis on hand hygiene will go a long way in preventing and minimizing the duration of disease outbreaks.

Spring is the perfect opportunity to take a deep breath and look back at the events of the winter. It's a great time to review outbreaks that occurred over the winter in detail to determine how such outbreaks might be effectively prevented in the future. Share 'lessons learned' with staff and administration and work on incorporating them into current policies and procedures where appropriate.

For great tools to help you plan your IPAC activities visit our website at: www.ricn.on.ca and click on the Education and Training tab.

Remember that everyone has a role in Infection Control. Work together and have fun with it!



Doing it Right!

Don't miss the CAEM/RICN Conference at the Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood on September 19-21st. One of the highlights of this year's conference will be the launch of the much anticipated Environmental Cleaning Educational Toolkit, a collaboration between RICN, CAEM and OHHA with support from the OAHPP and the MOHLTC and based on the PIDAC best practice document.

For registration information, visit the CAEM website: www.caenvironmentalmanagement.com

Core Competency Education Program has begun

Work on the revitalization of the Infection Prevention and Control Core Competency Education program has begun. The first step in this process is an evaluation that is being carried out by Research Strategy Group (RSG) on behalf of Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion.



RSG will be sending out a survey to many of the RICN stakeholders starting the week of July 26th. The survey, which will be distributed by mail and electronically, will focus on how the Core Competencies were used within healthcare settings and what changes are needed. When you receive the survey please take some time and respond to it. The feedback you provide will be very important in moving forward with this important initiative.

In August, RSG will also be doing further surveys with frontline healthcare providers to look at the usability of the modules and also hear what you liked and found challenging about using these. There will be an opportunity for some of you to be involved in this second round. Let us know if you are interested.



Regional Surveillance

Partnering with its LHIN, all six southeastern Ontario acute care hospitals, and one rehabilitation hospital, the South Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network (SEOICN) launched a project to improve the tracking of selected HAIs. This initiative includes the implementation of specialized software that can report and track HAIs. This will enable health service

providers to better understand the implications with respect to operational costs, lengths of stay, treatment outcomes, and patient transfer in southeastern Ontario.

“The SEOICN is on the right track for the region, and I am very confident that the surveillance initiative will continue to position the RICN as a provincial leader in infection control strategies. The new surveillance software will become the first tool infection control practitioners employ every day to be more effective and proactive, and they will eventually wonder how they worked without it.” - Ray Marshall, CEO Brockville General Hospital

Contact Marianne Walker at walkerm1@kgh.kari.net to request your copy of the RICN Annual Report 2009-10.

Acute Care ARO Point Prevalence Survey

Canadian acute care hospitals with more than 50 beds have been invited to participate in a survey to determine the prevalence of MRSA, VRE and *C. difficile*. This project will provide important Canadian data about the burden of disease, risk factors associated with these organisms as well as inform effective control strategies.

CHICA-Canada supports and is a co-investigator in this initiative. RICNs also encourage your participation.

An infection control professional in your hospital should have received an e-mail invitation to participate in this point prevalence survey in November 2010.

Questions about this project can be addressed to either Dr. Allison McGeer (amcgeer@mtsinai.on.ca) or Dr. Andrew Simor (asimor@sunnybrook.ca).

More information about this project is available at:

[http://
microbiology.mtsinai.on.ca/
research/aro-prevalence-study/](http://microbiology.mtsinai.on.ca/research/aro-prevalence-study/)

Welcome Message from OAHPP Prep Day for CIC Exam

The Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) is pleased to welcome two new programs from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care – the Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs) and the Infection Prevention and Control Core Competencies – bringing together expertise that will enable us to better protect and promote the health of Ontarians.

RICNs co-ordinate infection prevention and control activities and promote standardization in health-care facilities across Ontario. The networks maximize integration and enhance communication among all health-care professionals in the province, with a vested interest in infection prevention and control.

Core Competencies provide modules that help health-care providers understand and use the basic principles and practices of infection prevention and control to protect themselves and their clients.

This transition means that the important work of the RICNs and the Core Competencies at the local level will be part of a co-ordinated and integrated provincial strategy. As part of OAHPP, RICNs will contribute to Ontario’s scientific and technical expertise and will be better positioned to facilitate knowledge exchange and training in the field.

Together, these new additions will position OAHPP to effectively control the spread of health-care infections.



The SEOICN is holding a Prep Day for ICP’s preparing to write their CIC exam. The full day session will be held on **Wednesday, October 27th from 9am-4pm**

at the Network offices in Kingston. Anyone intending to challenge the Certification Board of Infection Control exam within 3 to 6 months is welcome to join this session. Call the SEOICN office to register.

Mark Your Calendars!

Don’t miss these **Lunch & Learn** Video-conference Sessions. All sessions will be offered at the SEOICN offices or book your own site. Contact Marianne Walker for more information.

Sept. 23, 2010	Environmental Issues
Oct. 21, 2010	UTI & ESBL
Nov. 18, 2010	Norovirus
Dec. 16, 2010	Monitoring Sterilization in Foot Care
Jan. 13, 2011	Ministry of Labour – IPAC Consultant Role

Topics in the New Year include:

- IPAC Auditing
- Legionnaire’s
- Construction
- Nursing Week and Infection Control
- Glow germ for auditing
- Group A Strep
- Infection Control in the OR

It’s Simple!
 ...is this year’s theme for Infection Control Week.
October 17 to 23, 2010
 Have you started planning yet?
 Ideas can be found at www.ricn.on.ca and
 click on [Resources](#)

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



South Eastern Ontario

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*

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