

WINTER 2010

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21 January, 2010

The Role of Environmental Surfaces in Healthcare Infections
Dr. Phillip Carling

28 January, 2010

Improved Oral Hygiene in Intubated Patients to Prevent Ventilator Associated Pneumonia
Dr. Charles John Palenik

09 February, 2010

Post-discharge Surveillance Made Easy
Dr. Judith Tanner

11 February, 2010

International Trends in Sharps Injury Prevention
Dr. Terry Grimmond

17 February, 2010

Influenza H1N1- The Southern Hemisphere Experience
Prof. Lance Jennings

18 February, 2010

Stopping URI's and Flu in the Family: The Stuffy Trial
Dr. Elaine Larsen

25 February, 2010

Influenza in the Hospital- Who Gets it From Whom
Dr. Alison McGeer

Just Clean Your Hands Adapted for Use in Long-Term Care!



The Just Clean Your Hands program created for acute care settings has now been designed especially for Long Term Care! This is exciting news as throughout the development and rollout of JCYH- Acute Care there were many requests from LTC about implementing the program in their homes.

In the fall of 2008 the MOHLTC began looking at how this program could be adapted for LTC settings and soon development was in progress including focus groups with stakeholders from LTC and the establishment of a task force to provide expert advice for creation of the program components.

Early in the new year, each Long Term Care home will receive a letter announcing the program and a JCYH-LTC Training Kit. Following this, the program will rollout across the province between January and April 2010 with corresponding training sessions offered by the Regional Infection Control Networks. For more information visit the RICN website www.ricn.on.ca or call your local RICN office for training details.

RICN Non-Acute Care ICP Training Program Achievement!

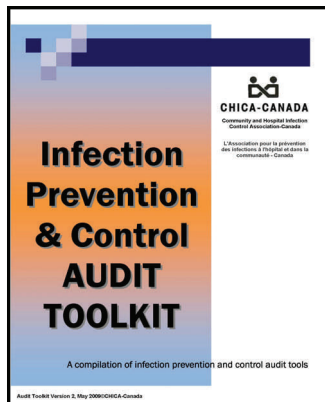


The RICN Non-Acute Care Infection Control Professional (ICP) Training Program Working Group is pleased to announce that the RICN Non Acute Care ICP Training Program has now received CHICA-Canada endorsement. This means that we can use the official CHICA-Canada logo and the designation "Endorsed by CHICA-Canada" on our course materials and advertising.

This endorsement means that this program meets the stringent criteria established by CHICA-Canada and will be listed on the CHICA-Canada website alongside other established training programs. Our course is unique in that it has been designed specifically for ICPs in non acute care settings in Ontario such as, long term care, primary health-care, home healthcare and public health. The program consists of 12 modules that are delivered over a 12 month period. It is intended for the ICP who is new in their role and/or has no other formal infection prevention and control training. If you are interested in this program and would like more detail contact your local RICN office or visit our website!

One More Reason to Become a CHICA-Canada Member!

<http://www.chica.org/AuditToolkit/toolkithome.html>



Frequently in the *Focus On* news we promote the many benefits of membership with CHICA-Canada. This month, there is another very good reason to join Canada's only national, professional association for Infection Prevention and Control.

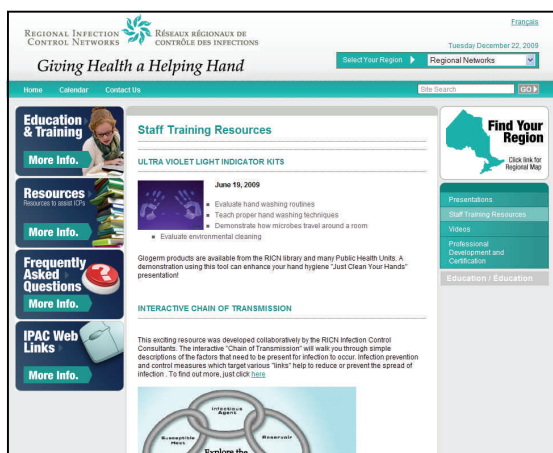
CHICA-Canada is pleased to announce the launch of 10 Infection Prevention and Control audit tools for CHICA-Canada members as part of National Infection Control Week. These tools are the first of a series that will be released over the next few months. We hope that these audit tools will support you to measure your success at moving best evidence into best practices in your organizations. The full audit toolkit will be available at the June 2010 conference.

The CHICA-Canada audit tools in this toolkit include:

- hand hygiene (readiness and practice)
- use of additional precautions (AP)
- use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- cleaning and disinfection of client/patient/resident equipment
- healthcare environment cleaning (including ward/department kitchens)
- hemodialysis practices, equipment, facility and management of AROs
- prehospital/emergency services
- outbreak management
- disinfection and sterilization in the doctor's office
- operating room infection prevention and control practices, asepsis and surgical scrub

The data derived from audits can be used to direct the infection prevention and control program's annual goals and objectives. It also will assist in meeting the needs of the health care setting in relation to infection prevention and control standards and safer health care practices. CHICA Members now have access — just sign on with your member's username and password!

Featuring....New Resources on the RICN Website!

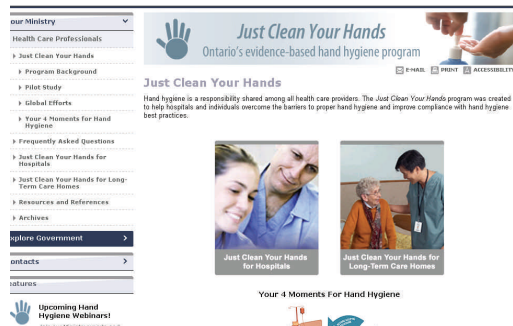


If you haven't checked out the RICN website recently we invite you to visit and discover "what's new". Over the past few months there have been new features added that we think you might find useful!

- The Interactive Chain of Transmission
- Workshop Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- The Infection Prevention and Control Pocket Guide for Acute Care Settings
- Practical Web Links
- Educational Event Calendar
- Resources that are offered in both French and English
- About the RICN and much more....

In addition to searching the Provincial RICN website browse the regional sites by clicking on the drop down box that says "Select your Region". On the Regional Web Pages you can find local news and library listings as well as a variety of interesting tools and unique resources. To find the website search "RICN Ontario" OR connect to www.ricn.on.ca

Please note that the Ministry of Health Hand Hygiene Web site has been up-dated to include information about the Just Clean Your Hands program for LTC. The web site can be found at : <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/handhygiene/default.aspx>



The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has developed a comprehensive best practice document on environmental cleaning that has just been released. ***Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections*** can be found on the PIDAC web site at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/pidac/pidac_mn.html

The Regional Infection Control Networks are collaborating with the Ontario Healthcare Housekeepers Association (OHHA) and the Canadian Association of Environmental Management (CAEM) to create a training program to support the provincial roll-out of the information, tools and resources in the document to environmental services staff in healthcare organizations across the province.

A project team with environmental services representation from Ontario hospitals, long-term care homes and other healthcare agencies has been established and met in mid-December to start assembling the training curriculum. It is our goal to have training packages available to health care facilities across the province in Spring 2010. For more information about this exciting project, contact: Grace Volkening, Grace.Volkening@nygh.on.ca

It's Norovirus Season Again !

What is Norovirus?

Noroviruses are a group of viruses that cause gastroenteritis in people. Previously, they were called Norwalk-like viruses.

What are the symptoms of Norovirus?

The symptoms of norovirus illness include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps. Sometimes, people may have a low-grade fever, chills, headache, muscle aches and fatigue. The illness often begins suddenly, about 24 to 48 hours after exposure and usually lasts 8-12 hours. Normal recovery time is within 48hrs.

How do you get Norovirus?

People are usually infected with noroviruses by direct contact with a person who is ill or has recently been ill or through indirect contact by touching surfaces contaminated with the virus, like door handles or by eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water.

When can a healthcare worker who had Norovirus return to work?

According to the *OHA/OMA Communicable disease surveillance protocols* "persons with symptoms or circumstances suggestive of Norovirus disease must remain off work until symptom free for 48 hrs"

What can I do to reduce my risk of getting Norovirus?

You can reduce the risk of Norovirus infections by:

- Washing hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom or changing diapers and before eating or preparing food. This is very important if you have recently been ill or if in contact with an ill person.
- Eat food that is well cooked and still hot when served, Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating.
- Thoroughly clean contaminated surfaces immediately after an episode of illness with hot, soapy water and then disinfect using a household disinfectant.
- Flush or discard any vomit and/or stool in the toilet and make sure that the surrounding area is kept clean.
- Avoid shaking soiled linen and wear household gloves when handling soiled materials.



Acute Care Pocket Guide Now On-line

The Regional Infection Control Networks are pleased to offer you a new on-line resource to provide you with quick access to infection prevention and control information and intervention measures on specific infectious diseases and conditions.

The pocket guide is presented in a searchable HTML format and can be found under the resources section of the RICN web site at www.ricn.on.ca or by [clicking here](#). By clicking on the coloured tabs, each section of the pocket guide can be opened for your review.



A Non-acute care version of the pocket guide is nearing completion. Look for it in coming months!

CHICA-Canada National Education Conference to be held in Vancouver May 26-June 3, 2010



The 2010 National Education Conference offers Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICPs) golden opportunities to learn and share with one another, celebrate successes and analyze opportunities for improvement.

A copy of the preliminary program and other information including registration and accommodation information can be found at

http://www.chica.org/conf/10_brochure.html

Information regarding funding to assist ICP's in attending the conference can be found at

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

Up-coming Conference Deadlines:

Ecolab Poster Contest: January 31, 2010

Virox Scholarship application: January 31, 2010

Abstract Submission Deadline: February 26, 2010

2010 World Health Organization Webinars

Dr. Benedetta Allegranzi and her colleagues at the WHO First Global Patient Safety Challenge (Clean Care is Safer Care) announce their inaugural Infection Control Webinar Series. It is a truly impressive line-up of topics and speakers. You can download the schedule at http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/news/gpsc1_webinar_series-2010.pdf.

The first topic is scheduled for **January 19, 2010**

"The global burden of health care-associated infections", presented by Dr. Allegranzi herself.

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

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