

## Regional Infection Control System Project Summary

2010 July

### Introduction

The ability to collect accurate information about Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs) is fundamental to an effective surveillance program. The implementation of a regional system will provide Health Service Provider (HSP) leaders with timely data and thus a better understanding of the implications of HAIs with respect to operational costs, lengths of stay, treatment outcomes and the transfer of patients. Without meaningful data, leaders are unable to justify appropriate resources. Since no regional system currently exists in south-eastern Ontario, an infection control software solution was considered a critical component to the success of the project.

In April 2009, SEOICN established the Regional Surveillance Project with the support of the South East Local Health Integration Network (SE LHIN). The purpose of the regional initiative was to improve the capacity to track patients with HAIs from seven hospitals by creating a single database enabling the Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) to readily share HAI data.

### Background

The identification of an 'end state' vision was facilitated by a workshop in June 2009. Participants included front line ICPs, their managers, Chief Nursing Executives and a representative from the public. Scenario based discussions which focused on the patient journey, assisted the group in identifying gaps and weaknesses in information management. Significant intelligence was garnered through collaborative discussions which informed the Request for Information (RFI). The subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted to Merx in November. Following the RFP posting, a smaller group evaluated and scored vendor submissions and demonstrations. 3SO ([Shared Support Services South-eastern Ontario](#)) led negotiations with the successful vendor, [CKM Healthcare](#).

A Regional Implementation Surveillance Team comprised of Infection Control Professionals (ICPs), managers and other experts met regularly over the winter months, to collaborate on definitions and develop standardized surveillance processes. This work served as an excellent foundation for the system customization which would occur as part of the software implementation plan.

### Current Status

During the June and July, regional IT project leads have been meeting to coordinate efforts with system interface development and testing. Working with the software vendor, IT has also been developing Operating Room (OR) and laboratory import specifications in preparation for batch download. The testing period is a critical period and information gleaned during testing expedites proactive identification of system issues prior to "go-live".

During this same period, an Expert User Group of selected ICPs and Surveillance Assistants has participated in WebEx training sessions with CKM. The Expert User Group has additional system administrative privileges and will also serve as expert resource to the front line ICPs in each hospital.

Regional Privacy Officers have agreed to the Privacy requirements that the Regional Infection Control System (RICS) will have to comply with and have adopted uniform Public Notification messages regarding the sharing of Personal Health Information between the SE LHIN hospitals.

### What's Next?

- Complete message testing and prepare for "go live".
- Training of Infection Control staff
- Ensure Privacy requirements have been met and audit processes are in place