

SPRING 2010

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April 27, 2010

The Value of Effective Leadership
Dr. Rosemary Kennedy (UK)

May 6, 2010

Disinfection & Sterilization: Special Emphasis
on Pediatric Issues
Dr. William Rutala (US)

May 13, 2010

Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms in a Behavioral
Health Setting
Gail Bennett (US)

June 2, 2010 (Free Teleclass)

Going Green While Keeping Clean: Collaborations
Between Environmental and Infection Control Best
Practice (Live Broadcast from CHICA- Canada
Conference)
Ed Rubinstein (Toronto)

June 9, 2010

From Obscurity to "Superbug": the Rise of
Clostridium difficile Infection
Dr. Tom Riley (Australia)

June 17, 2010

Norovirus Outbreaks- Issues and
Interventions
Dr. Phillip Carling (Boston)

June 22, 2010

Patient Hand Hygiene Perceptions &
Behaviour
Emma Burnett (UK)

COMING SOON!

Environmental Cleaning Best Practices Training Tools

In January 2010, the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) released a Best Practice document on *Environmental Cleaning* for Prevention and Control of Infections. In anticipation of its release the Regional Infection Control Network developed a partnership with two environmental services organizations, Canadian Association of Environmental Management (CAEM) and the Ontario Healthcare Housekeepers Association (OHHA). This project team's goal was to develop a training toolkit for environmental services in health care facilities based on this *new Environmental Cleaning* document.



The Environmental Cleaning Best Practices Project Team consists of:

Nora Boyd, Network Coordinator Erie-St. Clair Infection Control Network
Brenda Smith, Network Coordinator Central West Infection Control Network
Grace Volkening, Network Coordinator Central Region Infection Control Network
Keith Sopha, President, (CAEM)
Glenda Kaufmann, President, (OHHA)
Liz Van Horne, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)
Sarah Cox, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)
Dr. David Sheridan, Facilitator Shercon Associates Inc



Environmental service representatives from healthcare facilities across the province have assisted with the development of the curriculum and content for the training materials.

The toolkit will allow the trainer to educate their staff as a group, through self directed learning or using one on one coaching. The toolkit is under construction with estimated delivery date of fall 2010. Train the trainer sessions will be supported by the RICN. Progress updates are posted on the RICN website at www.ricn.on.ca.

Ask the Expert: Dr. Abdul Chagla



Acanthamoeba keratitis due to contaminated contact lens solution

Background:

Increased use of contact lenses has also increased the risk of corneal infections. While contact lens wear is generally very safe, lenses that are not properly cleaned and disinfected can raise the risk of severe eye infection. Lenses removed from the eye should be cleaned and disinfected before being reinserted.

Recent scientific publications have reported contamination of contact lens care systems with acanthamoebae resulting in severe eye infection.

What are some of the symptoms?

Common symptoms include: eye pain; red eyes; blurred vision; sensitivity to light & feeling that something is in the eye.

How is the infection diagnosed?

The infection is usually diagnosed by an eye specialist based on symptoms, growth of the amoebae from a scraping of the eye, and/or seeing the amoebae by a process called confocal microscopy.

Have there been outbreaks?

In 2007 Centre for Disease Control (CDC) reported an outbreak of acanthamoeba keratitis with a possible link to a brand of contact lens cleaning solution. Though no direct evidence was found, the company voluntarily recalled the product. There have also been reports on the presence of Acanthamoeba in water that was used for storage of contact lens.

What is the disinfection criterion for contact lens solution?

ISO Standard 14729 requires that contact lens disinfecting solutions reduce the load of certain strains of microbes in the solution by specific amounts (for example, a 1 log reduction for *Fusarium* and *Candida* or a 3 log reduction for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Serratia marcescens* and *Staphylococcus aureus*).

Are there any current disinfection criteria for Acanthamoeba in contact lens solutions?

No, these are being developed and need verification.

What is the best way to avoid microbial contamination of contact lens solution?

- Wash your hands - before applying, removing, cleaning or handling your contacts
- Use recommended products and follow manufacturer's recommendation on use and storage
- Maintain a daily cleaning regimen
- Replace your lens case frequently - every three to six months. Care of contact lenses includes cleaning the storage case since it is a potential source of infection

Audits – A Foundation for Change!

Though the word 'audit' strikes fear in the hearts of many, it can provide us with valuable information. Audits are an important part of change management and vital in providing evidence of program effectiveness, improvement and compliance with best practices.

Theories of behaviour change will emphasize the importance of feedback as a key part of sustaining change over time. Audits can provide tools and evidence to make that happen. Bryce (*AJIC, May 2007*) describes the infection control audit as an ideal vehicle to assess consistency of approach to infection prevention and to gauge compliance with best practices. Audits provide some of the hard data that is often used to measure progress—both internally and externally.

Malik et al (*AJIC, May 2003*) notes that audits should highlight good performance, facilitate positive feedback, identify areas for improvement and provide a quality indicator measure. These components allow us to assess the current level of compliance with infection control best practices, measure compliance against benchmarks, provide feedback to participating staff and stakeholders, and identify where improvements can be made.

So don't be afraid of the audit! It is an organized examination of where you are now that will help guide you to where you want to be.

pH1N1 Update



As many of you will already be aware, on April 14, 2010, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) issued an Important Health Notice (IHN) to update health care providers on the H1N1 situation. The following points were addressed in that IHN:

- Ontario has been experiencing very low levels of influenza activity since the beginning of January - as a result, the Ministry Emergency Operations Centre has transitioned to Recovery status
- Be aware that the pH1N1 vaccine expiry date has changed - watch for more information from your Health Unit
- pH1N1 guidance documents are no longer in effect - please refer to the **Routine Practice and Additional Precautions in all Health Care Settings** document from PIDAC for guidance on management of individuals presenting with influenza-like illness
- A number of health care facilities and providers have requested further clarification on the directions given in the April 14th IHN. We have received information from both the MOHLTC and the Ministry of Labour.

The information that has been communicated is as follows:

Health care providers should follow routine practices and additional precautions for the management of ILI

- For FRI/ILI, surgical masks are recommended; N95 respirators are no longer required for the management of these cases
- Surgical masks are recommended for seasonal flu, no matter what the strain
- N95 respirators should continue to be worn for airborne illnesses, such as TB
- For further guidance, clarification or details, please refer to the following:

Routine Practice and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Setting:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic_routine.html

Preventing Febrile Respiratory Illnesses: Protecting Patients and Staff:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic_fri.html

Important Health Notice (April 14, 2010): Information for Health Care Professionals - Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Update

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/ihn.html>

We hope that this information assists you in providing safe and appropriate care.



The Canadian Patient Safety Institute and Accreditation Canada invite you to participate in "STOP! Clean Your Hands Day on Wednesday, May 5, 2010".

This national event coincides with the World Health Organization's 2nd Annual Global Save Lives, Clean Your Hands Day. Get involved and your results could be showcased and prizes will be awarded for participation:

1. National Hand Hygiene Observation Day - will allow organizations to enroll in a dedicated day (or week) of hand hygiene observation in health-care facilities. Information packages will be sent out well in advance.
2. National Peer to Peer Review Day - will allow organizations to seek out groups of healthcare workers interested in conducting peer reviews of hand hygiene practices.
3. National Patient /Family Observation Day - a new Patient and Family Hand Hygiene Observation Card will be launched by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute that can be used by any patient or family member to observe and report the hand hygiene activities of the individuals providing care. This postcard will include prepaid postage to the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and results from the National Patient Family Hand Hygiene Observation Day will be reported back to the participating organizations. A new Patient Family Hand Hygiene Guide will also be launched in advance of the event.
4. National Healthcare Worker and Volunteer Hand Hygiene Training Day - will allow healthcare workers and/or volunteers across the country to log into the Canadian Patient Safety Institute's Discovery Campus Hand Hygiene Training Module to complete online training and receive a certificate of completion.

To Join the Canadian Clean Hands Campaign, sign up as a participant and receive new tools and information go to <http://www.handhygiene.ca/signup.aspx>.

To Join the World Health Organization's Campaign for Improved Hand Hygiene World register online or at <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/register/en/index.html>. All facilities registering will receive a commendation letter from Professor Didier Pittet, leader of the First Global Patient Safety Challenge.

New Library Resources at SEOICN

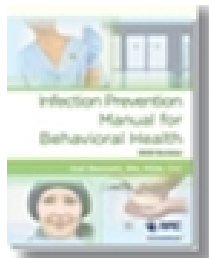
SEOICN has recently added some new resources to our lending library. If you are interested in borrowing any of our resources please contact Marianne at the network offices and we will be happy to ship them to you. A complete listing of all available resources can be found at :

<http://ricn.on.ca/seoicnlibraryc332.php>

New Resources from APIC include:

APIC Infection Prevention Manual for Behavioral Health 2009 Edition

This manual provides facilities with a comprehensive resource for policies and procedures reflecting the most current US standards for infection prevention. This manual includes new forms, policies, and updated references.



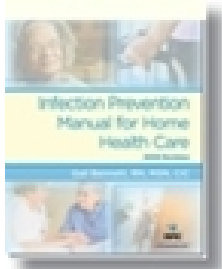
APIC Infection Prevention Manual for Ambulatory Care 2009 Edition

The Infection Prevention Manual for Ambulatory Care provides outpatient facilities with a comprehensive resource for policies and procedures reflecting the most current US standards for infection prevention. This manual includes forms, policies, and updated references



APIC Infection Prevention Manual for Home Health Care 2009 Edition

This complete policy manual provides home health personnel and agencies with comprehensive policies and procedures reflecting the most current US standards for infection prevention. This manual includes new forms, policies, and updated references



New Directions in Environmental Cleaning April 21, 2010

Thanks to all those who came out and supported the CHIC-EO and SEOICN workshop on April 21st.

145 attendees heard presentation on : *How Environmental Cleaning Saves Lives* by Dr. Dick Zoutman and the *Environmental Impact of Disinfectants* by Paul Webber.

Liz Van Horne from the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) provided a comprehensive overview of the new Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) *Best Practices in Environmental Cleaning* document and introduced the educational toolkit which is being developed. The release of this toolkit, which will assist in the education of environmental services staff in your facility, is planned for the fall of 2010.

A panel of Environmental Services Managers from our region, Danny Young: Crowne Ridge, Trenton, Anne Krock: Quinte Healthcare, Belleville and Kelly Wilson: Royal Ottawa Healthcare Group discussed the challenges of incorporating the best practices into their settings.

17 vendors were on hand to answer questions and introduce products to support best practice in your facility.



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

Janet Allen
Network Coordinator
allenj1@kgh.kari.net

Dr Dick Zoutman
Medical Coordinator
walkerm1@kgh.kari.net

Susan Cooper
Infection Control Consultant
coopers@kgh.kari.net

Marianne Walker
Administrative Assistant
walkerm1@kgh.kari.net

South Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network (SEOICN)
1471 John Counter Blvd., Suite 400
Kingston, Ontario
K7M 8S8

Phone: 613-548-3921
Toll free: 1-866-883-8428
Fax: 613-548-3576



South Eastern Ontario

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*