

FOCUS on

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

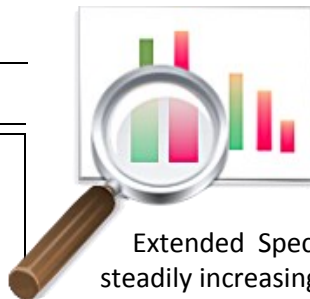
Regional Infection Control Network
Waterloo Wellington

Réseau régional de contrôle des infections
Waterloo Wellington

Fall 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LTC—PREVALENCE STUDY	PAGE 1
INTERNATIONAL IC WEEK	PAGE 1
IN THE NEWS	PAGE 1
ASK THE EXPERT	PAGE 2
NEW RESOURCES	PAGE 2
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS	PAGE 3
SHARING OUR SUCCESSES	PAGE 3
WORKING TOGETHER	PAGE 3
DÉJÀ VU?	PAGE 3
CIC EXAM PREP SERIES	PAGE 4
MINISTRY LABOUR WEBPAGE	PAGE 4
UPCOMING EVENTS	PAGE 4
WEBBER TELECLASSES	PAGE 4
RICN LUNCH AND LEARNS	PAGE 4



Long Term Care—Prevalence Study

Sometimes, ignorance is not bliss.

The number of antibiotic resistant organisms (ARO) such as Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) and

Extended Spectrum Beta-lactamase producers (ESBL) have been steadily increasing over the past 15 to 20 years. Infection control professionals in acute care follow these cases closely, and there is no question that the increasing numbers have had an impact on the patients themselves and also on resources, budget and nursing care. So what is the impact in Long Term Care? We don't know. There has never been a broad examination of the number of cases of AROs in Long Term Care settings. Together, we are going to change that in Ontario.

This year, the Regional Infection Control Networks are targeting Infection Control Week to perform the **first ever** "Long Term Care ARO Prevalence Study". That is, on any single day during the week of October 17 to 21, 2011, we are asking all 617 Long Term Care Homes (LTCH) to participate in sharing their current known numbers of MRSA, VRE and ESBL positive residents. This information will allow us to understand the burden of these organisms on Long Term Care in Ontario.

By participating in this review, LTCH will be able to find out whether their own burden of AROs is similar to, greater than or less than other similar-sized facilities in their region and across the province. By the end of 2011, all the analysis will be completed and we will understand for the first time, in a measurable way, the impact of AROs in Ontario's Long Term Care Homes.



In the News

Infection Control Today:

<http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com>

- Resistance Issues and Antibacterial Soaps
- World HAI Forum

American Journal of Infection Control

<http://www.ajicjournal.org>

- Multi-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* from dental school clinic surfaces and students
- Effectiveness of a hand hygiene promotion strategy using alcohol-based handrub in 6 intensive care units in Colombia

Canadian Journal of Infection Control

http://www.chica.org/inside_cjic_past_issues.php

- Healthcare worker knowledge of immunization status
- Universal vs targeted Surveillance for MRSA

International Infection Control Week

Public Health Ontario is hosting a series of five educational webinars to celebrate International Infection Control Week!

The topics each day are as follows:

- IPAC Essentials – Transmission and Routine Practices;
- Hand Hygiene (HH) and the use of HH Rates as an Indicator of Patient Safety;
- A look back at the 2010-2011 Influenza virus from a microbiological perspective, and improving influenza vaccination rates;
- Outbreak Management, including ethical considerations; and
- Review of Practice in Personal Service Settings.

These webinars will be offered on October 17th from 2:00 to 3:30pm and October 18th to October 21st from 2-3pm. Visit the [RICN website](#) for details.

**IN-fection Control - Are You IN?
Get IN-volved, Provide IN-put, IN-itate Change!**



ASK THE EXPERT

Question: Are health care workers at higher risk of having hand skincare problems?

Answer: Hand dermatitis is a common occupational health problem for health care workers (HCWs). A higher prevalence of dermatitis (e.g. 7%-30%) can be found among HCWs when compared to the general population. The consequences are serious because HCWs may have to change or leave their jobs due to occupational skin disease.

Among HCWs, *irritant contact dermatitis* is most prevalent but *allergic contact dermatitis* also occurs. Occupational *irritant contact dermatitis* is an inflammation caused by substances found in the workplace that come in direct contact with the skin. *Allergic contact dermatitis* is an allergic response to skin contact with some allergy-causing material and, unlike irritant contact dermatitis, can occur in places on the body that did not come in direct contact with the allergy-causing material.

In HCWs, the predominant mechanisms of irritation is frequent wet work, wearing gloves and contact with disinfectants. Irritation is cumulative and dose-dependent, so longer shifts or back to back shifts can have an impact. Even water is an irritant, especially with repetitive contact. Occlusion (e.g., with gloves) may worsen the damage induced by these irritants. These risk activities lead to sub-clinically impaired skin, before the first clinical signs and symptoms begin.

The use of a well formulated alcohol-based hand rub (with emollient) should become routine for the post contamination treatment of hands among HCWs. This may mean closely checking the product ingredient list, ensuring that HCWs are included in ABHR product choice and/or trialing products before bulk purchasing. Washing hands with soap and water should be an exception, used only when hands are visibly soiled.

The [Just Clean Your Hands Hand Care Program Booklet](#) contains great information on keeping your hands healthy. For example, you should remove hand/arm jewelry before hand hygiene, use warm water instead of hot, pat hands dry – don't rub, apply moisturizer frequently, ensure hands are dry before wearing gloves and continue hand protection at home. Changing hand care habits can help reduce irritant contact dermatitis and will provide significant patient benefits by reducing the risk of nosocomial infections. A strong focus on teaching evidence-based hand hygiene practices is key to future success in improving hand hygiene and minimizing hand dermatitis.

Ask the Expert was provided by Dr. Linn Holness, Irena Kudla, Sandy Skotnicki, Joel DeKoven from the Centre of Research Expertise in Occupational Disease and Occupational Disease Specialty Program, St Michael's Hospital

Reference: Kampft G, Löffler H. Prevention of Irritant Contact Dermatitis among Health Care Workers by Using Evidence-Based Hand Hygiene Practices: A Review. *Industrial Health* 2007, 45, 645-652. Photo acknowledgement www.handdermatitis.biz/

Infection Prevention & Control Reference Tool for Community Providers

This reference tool offers our stakeholders in Community Care a quick, easy-to-read guide covering a number of topics:

- Proper Hand Hygiene Technique
- Correct use of PPE
- Routine Practices
- Additional Precautions
- Handling Equipment

It is not difficult to prevent the spread of infection! Learn about the measures that you can take by downloading a copy of this reference tool. The Community Reference Tool is now available on the [RICN homepage](#).

New Resources Available



Best Practice Manual: Annex A: Screening, Testing Surveillance for Antibiotic-Resistant Organisms in all Health Care Settings

This annex, added as an extension to PIDAC's *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions* document deals specifically with the screening, laboratory testing and surveillance of antibiotic-resistant organisms (AROs), in health care settings across the continuum of care.

This revised document (July 2011) incorporates new information relating to carbapenem resistance in *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE). This Best Practice Manual can be found on the [PIDAC Webpage](#) of the Public Health Ontario website.

Projects in Progress

Standard Precaution Signage on it's way! Watch for a new resource coming your way by December - newly designed Signs for Contact, Droplet and Airborne Precautions. These new signs will become the standardized version across all areas of the province and will be available on the RICN website. Watch for your opportunity to get in on the focus group testing.

Environmental Cleaning Educational Toolkit Evaluation. The EC Toolkit has been available since September 2010 and enjoyed great success throughout the province - with your input it will continue to do so! A number of focus groups will be held this Fall across the province to hear about your experiences with the Toolkit. The first focus group was held on September 26th at the Canadian Association of Environmental Managers "Return to Blue" conference. Stay tuned for an evaluation survey later this fall to provide your feedback!

SHARING OUR SUCCESSES: Forest Heights catches the JCYH bug!

There have been many changes at Forest Heights in Kitchener over the past few years and in the midst of it all, they have made great leaps with their JCYH implementation. ADOC and all-time advocate of the home, Danica, has nothing but praise for staff and management. When offered the assistance of JCYH Coaches earlier this year, she jumped at the chance and was grateful for the support. She indicates, "JCYH coaching helped to make the program more 'real' and it offered concrete assistance that helped with training our observers. WWICN's help with using the Hand Hygiene Product Placement Tool was quite valuable and the education sessions were fantastic!"



Since they began implementation, Forest Heights...

- **has placed alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) in all of their resident rooms and includes hand lotion as part of their hand care program.**
- **has a JCYH Team!** The JCYH Team at Forest Heights has been active since the JCYH training started in 2010 and it has proven to be a great group who keeps the momentum going for the JCYH program. The Team helps maintain an open forum for communications—a place where challenges and successes can be discussed and celebrated.
- **is an observation machine!** Trained students and staff collect 500 observations per quarter!
- **provides regular feedback to staff on hand hygiene compliance rates!** Staff no longer feel intimidated by hand hygiene audits and look forward to checking their home's hand hygiene compliance rates.

Working Together on Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) in Primary Care

The Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network and representatives from the primary care sector are working together more closely than ever to identify and help address infection prevention and control issues in the physician's office. The group had it's first meeting on August 31st and it is looking forward to meeting regularly to share current best practice information,



discuss infection control issues and challenges and identify educational opportunities .

Déjà vu?

No, it's not just your imagination. Laura Farrell will once again try and fill Ellen Otterbein's shoes while Ellen tends to baby Abigail. She is excited to be back in the area that first introduced her to the Regional Infection Control Networks and among familiar faces. She is also working part-time at the South Western Ontario Infection Control Network where she has been since she left WWICN. Feel free to drop a line or send your infection control questions to laura.farrell@oahpp.ca .



CIC Exam Preparation Series

Are you planning on writing your CIC Exam in the next 6 months?
 The Erie St Clair Infection Control Network and Central West Infection Control Networks of Public Health Ontario will be hosting a CIC Exam Prep Series. This eight week series runs every Monday from **October 24th to December 12th from 12 – 1pm**. This event can be accessed by webcast, videoconference at your local RICN office or by videoconference at another location. Register for the series before **October 17th** at <http://bit.ly/pyWi2B>.
 Contact Veronica DeMelo at veronica.demelo@oahpp.ca or by phone at 905-874-7000 or toll free at 1 866-942-9426 if you require more information.



New Ministry of Labour Webpage

Earlier this month, the Ontario Ministry of Labour launched a new page on its website dedicated to [Health and Community Care](#). Access the ministry’s workplace health and safety information and resources on this sector – all in one place. Download posters and fact sheets, watch videos and read the ministry’s latest Health Care Enforcement Plan.
 Coming in November: **Infection Control Blitz in the Health Care Sector**. Watch for information regarding the November Blitz on the Ministry of Labour’s website.

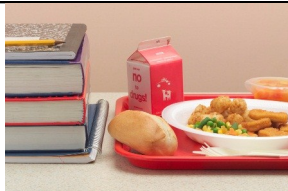
RICN Lunch and Learn Series

October 20, 2011 “Using Excel for Surveillance” Mabel Lim

November 17, 2011 “Invasive Group A Strep” Dr. Allison McGeer

December 15, 2011 “Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda: Tips & Tricks for Working with CDI” Stephanie Ralph and Virginia Tirilis

For more information on ways you can access these sessions, go to the Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network website at <http://www.ricn.on.ca/northwesternontariohomec49.php>



Webber Teleclasses - www.webbertraining.com

- 26 Oct. 11 [\(South Pacific Teleclass\) Public Health Lessons Learnt from the Christchurch Earthquakes](#)
 Speaker: Dr. Ramon Pink, University of Otago, New Zealand
- 27 Oct. 11 [The Role of Microbial Biofilms in Chronic Bacterial Infections](#)
 Speaker: Dr. William Costerton, Center for Genomic Sciences
- 03 Nov. 11 [How Should We Clean Our Hospitals](#)
 Speaker: Dr. Stephanie Dancer, NHS Lanarkshire, Scotland
- 10 Nov. 11 [Infection Prevention Challenges in Home Care: Preparing for Survey](#)
 Speaker: Mary McGoldrick, Home Health Systems Inc
- 17 Nov. 11 [An Overview of the HICPAC Norovirus Guideline](#)
 Speaker: Dr. Taranisia MacCannell, Centers for Disease Control
- 01 Dec. 11 [Strategies for Improving Hand Hygiene Compliance in the ICU](#)
 Speaker: Dr. Alexandre R. Marra, Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Brazil
- 07 Dec. 11 [\(Free WHO Teleclass - North America\) Best Practice for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare](#)
 Speaker: Prof. William Rutala, University of North Carolina
- 15 Dec. 11 [Surgical Implantables Being Reprocessed: Pandora's Surgery Box is Opened!](#)
 Speaker: Dr. Michelle Alfa, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba

Upcoming Events

<p>The Ministry of Labour is offering a webinar, Infection Prevention and Control - It's in Your Hands. You can register for the sessions at http://store.pshsa.ca/Category/214_1/October.aspx, or if you would like to join us at the WWICN office, please email tammie.corrigan@oahpp.ca</p>	<p>The Toronto Invasive Bacterial Disease Network (TIBDN) Education Days will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2011 and Friday, November 18, 2011. Check out their website for more details on topics and registration: http://microbiology.mtsinai.on.ca/tibdn/news.asp</p>
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Contact Us:



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