



Network News

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Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network Summer 2008

NEW!

PIDAC Hand Hygiene Best Practice Document

The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) recently released the newest best practice document for health care settings. Entitled 'Best Practices for Hand Hygiene in All Health Care Settings', the document provides direction to health care providers and administration across the continuum of care regarding the practice of hand hygiene and the provision of a skin care program to promote the skin integrity of health care providers.

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's 'Just Clean Your Hands' program, available online at www.justcleanyourhands.ca.

Copies of this Best Practice document and all other documents can be downloaded from the PIDAC website at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/pidac/pidac_mn.html

Implementing Best Practices for MRSA/VRE in LTC Train-the-Trainer Sessions

During the month of June, the WWICN is hosting three train-the-trainer sessions for health care professionals in long-term care settings. The sessions are based on the policy for LTC homes that was distilled from the PIDAC Best Practices for MRSA and VRE in Health Care Settings by the WWICN Antibiotic Resistant Organism Working Group.

During the sessions, participants engage in small and large group discussions, sharing experiences and equipping themselves with strategies and techniques to change infection prevention and control practices.

Resource kits have been developed and distributed to participants to assist with the implementation of the best practices in the long-term care setting.

WWICN Remembers a True IPAC Hero – Dr. Sheela Basrur

Health care professionals across the province of Ontario were saddened in early June to learn of the passing of a true infection prevention and control hero, Dr. Sheela Basrur. Dr. Basrur was the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Ontario during the SARS crisis. Her passion and commitment to infection prevention and control were unparalleled and her attitude throughout her battle with cancer was truly inspirational.

In April, Dr. Basrur was awarded the Order of Ontario by Premier Dalton McGuinty.

We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Basrur's family during this difficult time and remember her for her fearless leadership in the face of adversity.



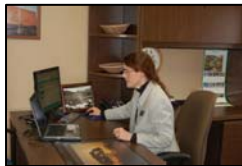
Dr. Sheela Basrur after receiving the Order of Ontario

Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network Update

For more information about topics covered below, please contact the WWICN office by calling 519-624-9781 or emailing Cathy Egan at cegan@cmh.org or Ellen Otterbein at eotterbein@cmh.org.

WWICN Open House

Join us as we open the doors of the WWICN office at 350 Conestoga Boulevard on September 23, 2008 for an open house. Drop in to say hello, enjoy some refreshments and check out the recently expanded space. Look for an invitation arriving to your inbox soon!



Celebration is in the air!

The Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network is pleased to announce Ellen Otterbein's recent success in challenging the CIC exam. At the CHICA-Canada Education Conference in Montreal, Quebec Ellen was also honored as the Ecolab Poster Contest winner. Visit www.chica.org to check out the winning submission!

Education Opportunities at a Glance

Shifting Landscapes in Environmental Health: Meeting the Challenge

69th Annual CIPHI (Ontario Branch) Education Conference
September 14-17, 2008
Mississauga, Ontario
For information, email www.ciphipeel2008.ca or call 905-799-7700

Sterilization Forum

CSA & CCHSA
September 17, 2008
Toronto, Ontario
For information, call 416-747-4017

Infection Connection

September 24, 2008
The Elliott Community, Guelph
For information, contact Mark Jefferson at the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health Unit at Mark.Jefferson@wdghu.org or calling 519-846-2715 ext. 4635

Share the Message – Not the Microbe: A Call to Action

CHICA Eastern Ontario
September 24-25, 2008
Kingston, Ontario
For information, visit <http://www.chica.org/eopic/conf08.html>

Canadian Healthcare Construction Course

Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society
October 30-31, 2008
Toronto, Ontario
For information, visit www.ches.org, email ches@eventsmgt.com or call (613) 531-2661

Webber Training Teleclass Topics This Summer Include:

June

- Environmental Sampling – Methods and Strategies
- Peripheral Line Sepsis
- The CIC Examination Process: Computer Based Testing

July

- Community-Associated MRSA – What's Up & What's Next
- Progress Report from the Chief Nursing Officer
- Disinfection & Sterilization – Current Issues & New Research

August

- Live Broadcast from the NDICN Conference, New Zealand

Join us at the WWICN office to participate in these teleclasses. Pre-register by emailing Tammie at tcorrigan@cmh.org or calling 519-624-9781.

For information about these educational events, please contact Ellen at eotterbein@cmh.org or call 519-624-9781

Updated APIC/CHICA-Canada Professional and Practice Standards

In 1999, a combined effort of the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association – Canada (CHICA-Canada) the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) and the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) produced the original Infection Prevention, Control and Epidemiology Professional and Practice Standards.

At the time of initial release, the standards were intended to reflect the expectations, values and priorities of the profession. Periodic review of these standards is required to ensure that they incorporate and address current scientific knowledge, clinical practice, global issues and technology. In order to maintain continued validity and applicability, a review and revision of these standards was launched.

APIC, CHICA-Canada and CBIC each recognize their responsibility to their respective membership and the public they serve to provide professional and practice standards.

Standards are authoritative statements that, while voluntary, provide direction and a dynamic framework that can be used in evaluating practice to ensure it addresses the needs of the clients served. These standards are also designed to be used in identifying areas for professional growth of ICPs, developing job

descriptions, and providing criteria for performance evaluations.

The standards encompass a broad spectrum of practice settings and professional backgrounds and include key indicators that are designed to be used in evaluating both the competency of the individual and their practice.

The key indicators represent multiple skills that are considered necessary to meet the demands of the evolving health care environment. It is expected that the ICP will meet or exceed the indicators associated with both the professional and practice standards.

Notable differences between the original standards and the updated version include:

- The integration of best practices into daily practice;
- Use of risk stratification and benchmarking methodologies;
- The addition of an occupational health section;
- Cost analysis as a component of fiscal responsibility.

To view the new standards, visit:

<http://www.chica.org/pdf/08PPS.pdf>

The ICP: Infection Control *Practitioner* or Infection Prevention and Control *Professional*?

The WWICN thanks author Pat Piaskowski, Network Coordinator of the North Western Ontario Infection Control Network for this article.

Are we having an identity crisis as ICPs? Is there a difference between an infection control practitioner and an infection control professional? Recognizing the true nature and scope of our roles, should we not include the term 'prevention' in our title?

In health care settings or gatherings of ICPs it is not uncommon to hear the term 'infection control practitioner' being used. Although in many cases we are speaking to those who understand the multiple facets of the role, there are many cases in which we are speaking to those who may not clearly understand what we do.

Does the 'multiple branding' of the ICP title confuse the public and other health care partners? As infection prevention and control practices continue to gain recognition as the foremost patient safety initiatives, a need for clarity around who we are and what we do exists.

The mission statement of CHICA-Canada clearly articulates the case for the Infection Prevention and Control Professional: "CHICA-Canada is a national multidisciplinary association of *professionals*. CHICA-Canada is committed to improving the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and

control by empowering evidence based practice and application of epidemiological principles. This is accomplished through education, communication, standards, research and consumer awareness. Just as there is a need to use clear, standardized and concise descriptions of illness and disease in our daily practice, an equally important need exists for us to apply the same quality of description to our role and title. Other health care professionals, the clients we care for, their families and the general public need to know who we are and what we do as Infection Control Professionals.

ICPs can contribute to this change in vernacular through consistent use of the term 'Infection Prevention and Control Professional' in conversations, professional presentations and in articles and other submissions made. Each CHICA-Canada chapter can also promote the term to their respective membership. We can all encourage it's use at the local, regional, provincial and national levels.

Website of the Season:



'The Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education is a national association of public and private organizations committed to educating Canadians about the ease and importance of food safety in the home.'

*- Canadian Partnership for
Consumer Food Safety
Education*

Fight Bac! Campaign

The Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education

www.canfightbac.org

It's summertime! Traditionally a care-free time to kick back and enjoy the warmest of all seasons in Canada whether at home or on vacation – but caution is required! Bacteria lurk just around every corner, waiting for you to make one wrong move in your food handling and storage which will allow them to wreak havoc on your intestines, not to mention your summer picnic!

The Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education is a coalition of 39 food safety related organizations of Canadian and international origins. The purpose of the partnership is to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness in Canada by increasing consumer awareness of safe food handling practices. The partnership is working towards this goal by developing and coordinating food safety education

programs that are focused on consumers and that are delivered primarily by member organizations.

The Fight Bac! website is a wealth of information and resources about safe food handling practices. The Food Safety Tips section includes the four simple steps required to fight foodborne bacteria, weekly tips on safe food handling and the Fight Bac! interactive game that is fun for all ages! The website also houses a learning centre with a number of tools for teaching children about food safety and a section called 'Mrs. Cookwell' that contains an 'Ask Mrs. Cookwell' section, tasty recipes, handy charts and fact sheets!

Take a moment to check this website out before you head away for your vacation or picnic! This website will help you enjoy your food safely.

Ask the Expert: What's the Scoop on Mandatory Reporting?

There has been a lot of media coverage lately about hospitals having to report infection rates. What information do we currently have about this initiative?

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The Ontario government has recently announced plans to introduce public reporting on eight patient safety indicators in hospitals. Seven of the eight indicators are directly related to components of hospital infection control programs and include *Clostridium difficile*, MRSA, VRE, rates of ventilator-associated pneumonia, rates of central line infections, surgical site infection rates and measures of hand hygiene compliance among health care workers.

By September 30, 2008, all Ontario hospitals will be required to publicly report their *C. difficile* rates in their facilities through a public website. The start date for public reporting of the remainder of the indicators will be staggered following the September deadline for *C. difficile*.

In addition to collecting rates on *C. difficile* infections starting September 2008 and MRSA and VRE cases scheduled to start in December 2008, the Ministry is requesting the reporting of several other infection rates. These rates include infections related to the insertion of central lines and surgical

site infections developing post-operatively to total hip and knee replacement procedures. This reporting is tentatively scheduled to begin April 30, 2009.

Hospitals will be expected to provide evidence of increased hand hygiene compliance by April 30, 2009. Many of the tools developed to support the *Just Clean Your Hands* campaign will be useful as hospitals develop and implement plans to meet this target.

The eighth indicator is the requirement for public reporting of Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratios (HSMR). The HSMR is a measure that provides a starting point to assess mortality rates and identify areas for improvement. When tracked over time, the Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio indicates how successful a hospital has been in reducing preventable deaths.

For more information visit www.ontario.ca/health-news.

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The experts are the South Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network Team. WWICN thanks them for sharing this information.