



Network News

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Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network Spring 2008

How are we doing?

The WWICN has been in operation for a year and a half and we are looking for feedback on how we have helped meet your needs up until now. We have hired a consultant to help us with assessing our services and she will be collecting information over the next month to help us with our planning for the future.

Mira Ratkaj from Strategic Alternatives Management Consulting Inc. will be conducting a telephone survey of some of our partners to get your input on the service we provide. If you are chosen to be called, we appreciate your participation and assure you that the call will take no longer than 15 minutes and that anything you say will be anonymous.

Your feedback will help us to make the WWICN a better, stronger organization and help us to meet your needs better. We will also provide a summary of the results in upcoming newsletters, on our website and at our annual partnership forum.

Building with IPAC in Mind

The WWICN was pleased to be able to host the “Fundamentals of Infection Control during Construction, Renovation or Maintenance of Health Care Facilities” at its offices on February 28 and 29. There were 25 attendees each day and all who participated enjoyed the chance to learn from instructor Gordon Burrill, as well as from their colleagues.

Take a look at some pictures from the WWICN photo album!

We would love to hear from you!

Contact us at:

350 Conestoga Blvd.

Unit B4-B

Cambridge, ON

N1R 7L7

(519)624-9781

1-866-276-6995

(toll free)

fax: (519)624-6212

or e-mail:

cegan@cmh.org

eotterbein@cmh.org

tcorrigan@cmh.org



Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network Activity Update

ICP Training Program for Non-Acute Care

The pilot phase of this very exciting undertaking has just been launched! During the initial phase of the project, each Network was asked to recruit ICPs from the Long-Term Care setting who are interested in taking an IPAC course. The program features electronic delivery of information, economical tuition and a strong mentorship component. Expectations are that this infection prevention and control training program will be an ongoing project supported by all of the RICNs.

WWICN Lending Library Expansion

The WWICN is pleased to share with you that the lending library is growing! Do you have questions about disinfection and sterilization? We have added a number of titles on the topic including '*Principles and Practice of Disinfection, Preservation and Sterilization*', '*Disinfection in Healthcare*' and '*Antisepsis, Disinfection and Sterilization*'. Titles on other topics have also been added. Check out the library list at www.ricn.on.ca!

Acute Care Isolation Signage

A committed group of professionals from acute care and public health settings in the WWICN area have been diligently working to update the isolation signs used in acute care settings. The hard work is finally paying off with the new version of the signs arriving in hospitals in April 2008. Information pamphlets have also been developed for families and visitors containing information about the isolation precautions.

It is with great pleasure that the Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network recognizes and congratulates **Lucie Imbiscuso**, Public Health Inspector, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health on her recent achievement of the Certification in Infection Prevention and Control and Epidemiology.

Education Opportunities at a Glance

Infection Prevention and Control: The Practical Way

CIPHI Communicable Disease Conference May 1-2
Holiday Inn Select, Toronto Airport
For information and to register, visit www.ciphi.ca

CHICA-Canada National Education Conference

May 29 - June 5, 2008
Palais des Congres, Montreal, Quebec
For information and to register, visit www.chica.org

APIC Annual Conference

June 15-19, 2008
Denver, Colorado
For information and to register, visit www.apic.org

WWICN Annual Partnership Forum

June 26, 2008
St. George's Hall, Waterloo
More details coming soon!



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

Webber Training Teleclass Topics This Spring Include:

March

- Voices of the Infection Prevention Society
- Microbiology 101
- Voices of CHICA (part 1)
- The Basics of Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization
- Outbreak Management
- Surveillance Success

April

- The Human and Environmental Toxicity of Microbicidal Chemicals: Are Safer Alternatives Available?
- Disease Problems in the Global Food supply
- Antibiotic Resistance – Can We Hold Back the Tide?
- Live Broadcast from Central Sterilizing Club Conference
- Case Study in Infection Control #1

May

- Infection Control In Personal Service Settings
- Biocidal Testing and Label Claims – Truth in Advertising?
- Adverse Events in Dialysis
- Bedpan Decontamination – Manual vs. Mechanical

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 etotterbein@cmh.org or call 519-624-9781

1st Annual Bugs and Drugs Conference – A Resounding Success!

The WWICN was pleased to partner with the IPAC team from Grand River Hospital to present the first Family Practice Infection Control Conference, “Bugs and Drugs” on March 5. The event was held at Freeport Health Centre and was attended by family physicians, nurse practitioners and public health practitioners. Dr. Martha Fulford gave an update on *Clostridium difficile*, Dr. Cheryl Main presented about Community Associated MRSA, Dr. Verne Glavin discussed The Prescription for Over-Prescribing and Dr. Anne Matlow spoke about Infection Prevention and Control in the Physician’s Office.



Got Books? IPAC Outreach

The Regional Infection Control Networks and CHICA-Canada would like to assist our colleagues in Cameroon, West Africa by helping them build an Infection Prevention and Control Library that will become an integral part of the Infection Prevention and Control Program they are striving to develop. You can help!

We are working with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board (CBCHB), a non-profit organization that provides critical health services to over 6 million people, to stock an IPAC library. Despite their lack of resources, the staff at the CBCHC are determined to build a successful Infection Prevention and Control Program, including the development of an AIDS Care Program and a TB Control Program.

To that end, from now until April 25th, Network offices will be collecting used books and educational materials such as texts, journals and videos for shipment to Africa in May 2008. In most African countries the non-current editions of books that we have are likely to be more current than materials they currently have access to. If you would like to get involved and have used materials that you can share, please contact our office by phone or email. We will make every effort to assist you in getting these materials to us.



Website of the Month: The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Hand and Respiratory Hygiene Campaign

www.publichealth.va.gov/infectiondontpassiton



“This is a great resource for eye-catching hand hygiene posters!”
- ICP from local hospital

Infection: Don't Pass It On is a public health campaign of the Department of Veterans Affairs established through a collaboration between the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, the National Center for Patient Safety, Employee Education System, Infectious Diseases Program Office and VA experts in infection prevention and control in the United States. The message of the campaign is simply to wash your hands and cover your cough. These basic measures are effective in preventing the transmission of infections and ultimately save lives while at the same time reducing the suffering and costs associated with infections and related treatment. If you could use posters about hand

hygiene, respiratory hygiene, or a combination of both, check this website out! You will be glad you did!



Ask the Expert: Hand Hygiene Campaign in Ontario Hospitals

A while ago I heard about a hand hygiene pilot project for Ontario hospitals. What is happening with that project now?

OS

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care completed the pilot phase of the hand hygiene project in August 2007 and is currently launching the evidence-based *Just Clean Your Hands* campaign in all hospitals across Ontario. The multifaceted hand hygiene campaign has been developed over the last 18 months and builds on the work of the World Health Organization and the *Clean Your Hands* campaign in the UK.

Included in the *Just Clean Your Hands* program is training, an implementation guide, tools and materials, a website to promote communication amongst participants and other supports from Ministry experts.

While this campaign is geared towards hospitals, the information it contains is applicable across all sectors of the health care system. Proper hand hygiene will protect clients and health care providers through preventing the spread of infections. Fewer infections means more healthy clients and more money as the costs related to treating infections will decrease.

On March 5, 2008, experts from the Ministry and Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) teamed up to present a videoconference to mark the official

launch of the *Just Clean Your Hands* Program for Hospitals. This videoconference has been archived on the OHA website and can be viewed at no cost by clicking on this link:

http://www.oha.com/client/oha/oha_lp4w_lnd_webs_tation.nsf/page/Archived+Webcasts+and+Videoconferences

Currently the Ministry and the OHA are working collaboratively to provide program implementation training sessions to health care providers from acute care settings across the province. For information on these sessions and to register, visit www.oha.com.

Visit www.justcleanyourhands.ca to access information and materials including the comprehensive implementation guide, training modules, posters and other visual hand hygiene reminders, tools to evaluate the impact of the program and measure hand hygiene compliance rates and receive support and guidance from the Ministry as you implement the program.

