



Upcoming Lunch & Learn Sessions

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The N.W.O.I.C.N. will be hosting Lunch and Learn Sessions by video/teleconference over the next several months from 12-1EST. The target group is Support and Environmental Services Staff. The dates and topics are:

- General Cleaning Principles January 17/08
- Cleaning of Mobile Equipment Feb 21/08
- Hantavirus Mar 13/08
- Construction & Renovation April 17/08
- Mold Remediation May 15/08
- C *difficile* September 18/08
- MRSA October 16/08



To register for these sessions contact Brandy at (807) 683-1755 or email ponkab@tbh.net and ensure you book your site through your videoconferencing coordinator.

CHICA Northwestern Ontario Conference

CHICA Northwestern Ontario is hosting another conference on June 12 & 13 2008 at the Airline Travelodge. The topics to be included are:

- Diseases of Interest
- Travel & Tourism: How to have a safe and stress free vacation
- Travelling Bugs
- Destressing Yourself
- Professional Standards & What to Look For in Infection Control
- Equipment Cleaning
- Travelling in Northwestern Ontario: Camping, Fishing, Hunting, what you should know

If you are interested in registering for this conference, please contact Brandy Ponka by email ponkab@tbh.net or phone (807) 683-1755 to register. The registration fee is \$125.00 for 1&1/2 days.

Regional Infection Control Website www.ricn.on.ca

On the RICN website you can access the following:

- Links to different sites & documents i.e. CSA, PIDAC, MOHLTC
- Links to all the RICN's
- RICN's newsletters, library resources etc
- Forms to sign up to your nearest RICN
- Education Calendars with upcoming seminars, videoconferences etc

N.W.O.I.C.N
289 Munro Street
Thunder Bay, ON
P7A 2N3

Toll Free Phone:
1-866-706-7426

or

(807) 683-1755

Fx: (807) 683-1745

ponkab@tbh.net

New/Revised Protocols in Surveillance

In September and October 2007, the following protocols were revised or updated based on current scientific and medical knowledge to provide updated direction to prevent the transmission of disease among health care worker. All changes to the protocols are highlighted in yellow within the document.

- Adenovirus Conjunctivitis
- Blood Borne Diseases
- Enteric Diseases
- Meningococcal Disease

All protocols are available on the OHA website: http://www.oha.com/client/oha/oha_lp4w_lnd_webstation.nsf/page/Communicable+Diseases+Surveillance+Protocols

To get financial support for the ICP course or the CIC you can apply to:

1. The SARS Memorial Fund for Infection Control Practitioners (ICO) is a tuition/certification/professional development reimbursement program funded by the Molson Canada SARS concert (2003) and sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long Term Care. The fund provides grants for Infection Control Practitioners from any discipline to support continuing education, certification/re-certification and professional development for individual Infection Control Practitioners so that they can improve their knowledge and lead Infection Control Practices within their health care settings.

For more information see: http://www.rnfoo.org/a_s/2007/infection_control/SARSMemorialFund2007.htm

2. The Rolling Stones / CPI Awards are funded from a donation representing the proceeds from the sales of a DVD produced at the time of the Rolling Stones 2003 SARS Benefit Concert in Toronto. The objective of the program is to support the advancement of professional practice in Infection Control. As such, the fund provides awards and grants to practicing health professionals from any discipline to support continuing education, participation in, or coordination of, conferences, projects (e.g. educational) and conducting studies/research. RNFOO is responsible for the administration of the awards. A multi-disciplinary review committee will consider all the applications and determine those awards to be dispersed. Individual candidates may request a one-time award up to \$2,000. Group or organizational candidates may request a one-time award up to \$5,000. In both cases, candidates must attest that they are not receiving other funding in support of their initiative.

For more information see: http://www.rnfoo.org/a_s/2007/infection_control/Rolling_Stones_CPI_Awards_2007.htm

3. If you are a medical laboratory technologist, medical radiation technologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, dietitian, respiratory therapist or pharmacist who is currently registered with your regulatory college and practicing in Ontario, you may be eligible to receive a reimbursement for professional development*. A maximum of \$1,500 per year is available for professional development (PD) opportunities*.

For more information see: <http://www.ahpdf.ca/common.asp?Itemcode=AHPDF-FAQ>

Infection Control Practices for Dental Technologists 2 Day Course

When: Saturday, February 23 & Sunday, February 24, 2008

Where: University of Toronto

Cost: \$495.00 (includes continental breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks)

Overview: This course, developed specifically for Dental Technologists, will combine lectures, discussions, hands-on demonstrations and group exercises to enable the participant to be fully confident in applying the highest level of Infection Control in the Dental Laboratory. This will assist both Dental Technologists and their fellow Dental Health Care Professionals to insure the safety of their patients. For more information go to: www.cde.utoronto.ca or call 416-979-4902 or email cde@dentistry.utoronto.ca

Mark Your Calendars!

The Northeastern Ontario Infection Control Network and the Champlain Infection Control Network are hosting a Francophone Symposium on March 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. & 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 2008 at two locations:

Northern Ontario School of Medicine (Sudbury)
Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus (Ottawa)

This symposium will be presented in the French language only. For more information please contact either of the Administrative Assistants at these networks. Their contact information is:

Northeastern Ontario Infection Control Network
Contact: Micheline Beaudry, Administrative Assistant
Ph: (705) 523-7124
Email: mcbeaudry@hrsrh.on.ca

Champlain Infection Control Network
Contact: Lise Blanchard, Administrative Assistant
Ph: 1-866-833-8868
Email: lblanchard@ottawahospital.on.ca

Bristol Stool Chart

The **Bristol Stool Form Scale** or **Bristol Stool Chart** is a classification of the form, appearance of feces into seven groups. It was developed by Dr. K. Hering at the University of Bristol and was first published in the British Medical Journal in 1990. For more information or to download this chart go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_Stool_Scale.

Canadian Tuberculosis Standards

The revised Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 6th edition (2007) have been posted! They may be viewed at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/pubs/tbstand07-eng.php> (English) or <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/pubs/tbstand07-fra.php> (French).

The website also includes associated resources mentioned in the standards. It also includes information on how to obtain a print copy. Please note that complimentary print copies will be sent (in January or February) to a large list of individuals and organizations involved in TB prevention and control across Canada. If you have not received your copy(ies) by the beginning of March, 2008, please contact your regional Lung Association.

[December 2007 Pandemic Planner](#)

Please find the link for the December 2007 issue of the Pandemic Planner, the monthly newsletter for health professionals.

www.health.gov.on.ca/pandemic

[CSA Standard](#)

The CSA Standard Z317.13-07 Infection Control During Construction, Renovation and Maintenance of Health Care Facilities has been reissued in its revised form. Many of the networks have this standard in the resource libraries. The document is available from CSA at the link below.

<http://www.csa-intl.org/onlinestore/GetCatalogDrillDown.asp?Parent=3392>

Also CSA is offering NEW-Practical Application in Infection Control during Construction, Renovation or Maintenance of Healthcare Facilities that will include this resource. For more information on this or any of the other courses contact seminars@csa.ca or learningcentre.csa.ca or phone (800) 463-2727.

[Instrument Shortage results in Over-use of Flash Sterilization](#)

On December 11, 2007 the Ontario Auditor General released their annual report. Contained in Chapter 3 of the report: *Hospitals—Management and Use of Surgical Facilities*, are recommendations for the management of surgical instruments.

The Auditor General found that hospitals audited were using 'flash sterilization' when there was a shortage of instruments and not enough time between surgical cases to clean and sterilize instruments before they were needed again. Health Canada's Infection Control Guidelines and the Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) "Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sterilization in all health care settings," both indicate that flash sterilization is 'not recommended' and should only be used in emergency situations (such as when an instrument is dropped during surgery). In view of their findings the following recommendations were made:

[Instrument Shortage results in Over-use of Flash Sterilization](#)



To ensure that cleaned and sterilized instruments are available when needed, hospitals should:

1. Re-examine the practice of using flash sterilization in non-emergency situations.
2. Maintain records of all flash sterilization that is used which includes instruments flashed, surgeon's name and patient's name.
3. Review the cost and benefits of implementing an instrument management system to track instrument location and status.
4. Determine if surgical resources are being used efficiently and effectively by implementing the information provided in the Surgical Efficiencies Target Program.

On November 28th, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and PIDAC provided a videoconference on flash sterilization. The archived presentation is available at www.webcast.otm.ca. The Report of the Audit General 2007 is available at www.auditor.on.ca

[Upcoming Free Webber Teleclasses](#)

March 4, 2008 Voices of the Infection Prevention Society

March 11, 2008 Voices of CHICA (Part 1)

July 17, 2008 Community-Associated MRSA What's Up & What's Next

For more information on these teleclasses go to <http://webbertraining.com/>

World News



NWOICN

It is with great pleasure that the Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network acknowledges and congratulates **Nancy Robertson** and **St. Joseph's Care Group**. Nancy Robertson has attained Certification in Infection Prevention and Control and Epidemiology and for the next 5 years can use the Certification in Infection Control (CIC) designation after her name.

CJIC

The Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC) is dedicated to the dissemination of information relevant to practice of infection control in the hospital and in the community; one of its prime purposes is the dissemination of Canadian data. The Journal therefore welcomes manuscripts and/or submissions of relevance and current interest to healthcare personnel practicing in this area.

To become an author of the journal go to http://www.chica.org/inside_cjic_journal.html

Infection Control Today

Aggressive TB Control Can Yield Big Economic Gains, Says New Study

For more information or to join Infection Control Today, go to <http://www.infectioncontrolday.com>

CHICA Canada Website

MRSA Road Shows and Webinars: CHICA–CANADA and BD (Becton Dickinson) will host a series of “MRSA Road Show Seminars” and “MRSA Webinars” starting in February 2008. The “Road Show Seminars” and “Webinars” are designed to educate healthcare professionals and healthcare administrators on decreasing the rate of healthcare associated infections with the focus on Methicillin- Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), the antibiotic-resistant superbug impacting millions of patients worldwide.

Registration for the Roadshows and Webinars is free! For more information go to <http://www.chica.org/index2.html>

APIC

APIC Launches "Targeting Zero" Initiative Press Release for more information go to <http://www.apic.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>

ProMED Articles

To learn how to subscribe go to <http://www.promedmail.org/pls/promed/f?p=2400:1000>

SHEA

New advice for treating childhood pneumonia urged

New vaccinations give scientists hope of conquering flu pandemic

For more information on these articles go to <http://www.shea-online.org/>

Infection Control & Epidemiology Online Course

New Online Course: The Michener Institute is accepting registrations for "*Infection Control & Epidemiology*", an online course for ICPs, public health investigators, professionals in communicable disease and others interested in infection prevention and control. For more information on this course go to <http://www.chica.org/>