



Launch of the RICN Website

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The Regional Infection Control Network Website is now live. To access this website go to www.ricn.on.ca. This website provides information on all the networks, educational conferences, links to other websites and much more!

Educational Conferences

CHICA Northwestern Ontario is hosting their 2007 Annual Conference "007 Live to Die Another Day". This conference will be held in Thunder Bay at the Travelodge Airline Hotel on September 27 & 28 2007. The topics for this conference are:

- Quality Systems
- Reprocessing and the Canadian Standards (CSA)
- Outbreak Management
- Influenza Pandemic
- Personal Disaster Planning
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
- Hepatitis B
- Navigation the RICN Website
- Risk Communication-What Public Health Professionals Need to Know
- Pet Therapy
- Hazard Analysis & Infection Control



If you would like to register for this conference, contact Brandy Ponka by email ponkab@tbh.net or phone (807) 683-1755 by no later than September 14, 2007. The registration fee is \$125.00 per person. Hurry seats fill up fast!

Webber Teleclasses

The Webber Teleclass Schedule for July & August is: For more information on these teleconferences please contact Brandy Ponka by email ponkab@tbh.net or phone (807) 683-1755.



- July 26, 2007 1:30 to 2:30 EST (FREE Teleclass) **CDC Guideline Review - Disinfection & Sterilization**
- August 9, 2007 1:30 to 2:30 EST **Outcome Surveillance and Process Surveillance - Tools to Minimize Nosocomial Infection**
- August 22, 2007 1:30 to 2:30 EST **ESBLs - Where Are We Now**

N.W.O.I.C.N

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[Hand Hygiene Campaign](#)

Canada's Hand Hygiene Campaign and its theme - "STOP! Clean Your Hands" - was introduced during the opening ceremonies of the 2007 National Education Conference of CHICA-Canada in Edmonton, and the components of the campaign's toolkits will be tested with select national healthcare institutions during the summer of 2007.

For more information and an application form, please visit www.handhygiene.ca/news/

[Hand Hygiene Website](#)

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) Hand Hygiene website www.justcleanyourhands.ca has several great resources which include information on:

- ✦ [General](#)
- ✦ [Alcohol-based hand rub](#)
- ✦ [Infection and Quality of Life](#)
- ✦ [Rings/Arm Jewellery/Fingernails](#)
- ✦ [Guidelines/Best Practices](#)
- ✦ [Economic Cost of Infections](#)
- ✦ [Social Marketing & Behaviour Change](#)
- ✦ [Role Models](#)
- ✦ [Alcohol-based hand rub as a fire hazard](#)
- ✦ [Hand rubs and blood alcohol level](#)
- ✦ [Muslim health care workers and alcohol-based hand rub](#)



You can also access the Hand Hygiene Fact Sheet here.

[Occupational Health & Safety Conference](#)

Emerging Health & Safety Issues from Changing Workplaces "A Canadian Discussion" September 17 & 18, 2007, Vancouver, BC. For more information on this conference, go to this link: <http://www.ccohs.ca/events/forum07/>

[Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy](#)

47th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC), which will be held in Chicago, Illinois, September 17 – 20, 2007.

More than 12,000 physicians, researchers and other healthcare professionals from around the globe gather each year at ICAAC to foster worldwide solutions to the problem of infectious diseases.

The deadline to register is August 17, 2007. For more information on this conference go to <http://www.icaac.org>.

[New N.W.O. Infection Control Network Library Items](#)

Here are a few of the new items that we have added to our library:

- Dirty Doctors DVD from CBC Marketplace
- APIC 2007 Conference Handouts & Abstracts CD-Rom

[Guidelines for Isolation Precautions](#)

Please see the below link to the Guideline for Isolation Precautions:

Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings, 2007 now available for download at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Isolation2007.pdf>

[What are Nanobugs?](#)

Nanobugs are microbes with attitude. The nanobugs are a unique combination of science and imagination. The nanobug character represents bacteria, viruses and fungi (microbes). Their cartoon image reveals natural characteristics of the microbe or the infection it causes. For more information on these nanobugs go to www.nanobugs.com.





Those Three Little Letters ... CIC. Why and How to Get Them!

The Certificate of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CIC) is an internationally recognized level of excellence in infection control practice. To earn the designation of CIC, an individual must pass the certification examination administered by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc. (CBIC). This certification is valid for five years at which time a recertification is necessary. "CIC" is a legal designation that can only be used by those who have successfully passed the examination.

What is the purpose of the CIC?

- To provide standardized measurement of the current basic knowledge required for persons practicing infection control
- To encourage individual growth and promote professionalism
- To formally recognize infection control professionals

Who is eligible to write the examination?

Eligibility depends on meeting both the education requirement and the practice requirement.

Practice Requirement

Candidates must have practiced infection control for a minimum of two years. Clinical practice of infection control occurs in various settings and its definition includes analysis and interpretation of infection control data, investigation and surveillance of suspected outbreaks of infection, education of individuals about infection risk, prevention and control, development and revision of infection control policies and procedures and consultation on infection risk assessment, prevention and control strategies.

Education Requirement

Candidates must have a current license or registration as a medical technologist or clinical laboratory scientist, physician or registered nurse, OR a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. An educational waiver may be applied for if this is not met, but the individual meets the practice requirement.

How do I get more information and how do I apply to write the exam?

- Contact your Regional Infection Control Network for information about their CIC study groups, reference materials and study guides.
- Visit www.cbic.org to obtain a Candidate Handbook for details on the exam content and the reference material used to formulate the exam.

Read two articles from the American Journal of Infection Control:



- "Infection Control Certification: A Global Priority", AJIC 2007; 35: 141-3.
- "Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology white paper: The value of certification for infection control professionals", AJIC 2007; 35: 150-156.

World News

SHEA



- **GAO assesses avian and pandemic flu planning**
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/jun2707gao.html>
- **Largest national US healthcare facility MRSA study reveals infection rates eight times greater than previous estimates**
http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release,128032.shtml

To read these articles place your cursor over these links and press ctrl and left click

CHICA Canada Website

New Guidelines & Best Practices:

- CDC: Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007
- CCAR-CCRA: Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Long Term Care, Home and Community Care including Health Care Offices and Ambulatory Clinics

To read these Guidelines and Best Practices go to www.chica.org

Bug Day

Mark your calendars! Bug Day is on October 16, 2007 in Winnipeg at the Health Sciences Centre, University of Manitoba in Theatres A,B,C. For more information contact Jason McDonald at (204) 975-7754.

ProMED Articles

- [PRO/PL> Citrus canker, grapefruit - Argentina](#)
- [PRO/AH/EDR> Avian influenza \(119\): Germany, France, wild birds, susp.](#)
- [PRO/PL> Downy mildew, cucumber - USA \(OH, MI\), Canada \(ON\)](#)
- [PRO/AH/EDR> Avian influenza \(120\): France, wild birds, Viet Nam](#)

For more articles or to read these ones go to www.promedmail.org

Infection Control Today

Human Antibodies that Block Human and Animal SARS Viruses Identified

More Swimmers Means More Pathogens in the Water

Probiotic Drinks Can Help Reduce Diarrhea Associated with Antibiotics

Doctors Call for Opt-out Approach to HIV Testing

For more information or to read these articles go to www.infectioncontroltoday.com or move your cursor over the title and press ctrl and left click.

APIC

- MRSA Implementation Guide
- SHEA/APIC Legislative Mandates for Use of Active Surveillance Cultures to Screen for Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci

For more information on these go to www.apic.org

Pandemic Planner

The Pandemic Planner can be downloaded at www.health.gov.on.ca/pandemic.