

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Fall 2010

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International Infection Prevention Week: Stronger Together!

Infection Control Week (ICW) has been celebrated by Infection Prevention and Control Societies since the early 1980's. In 2009, CHICA-Canada led an international meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland to discuss how to make the third week of October a truly *international* Infection Control Week. The idea has grown and flourished with resources from around the world being shared! The International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) is launching this exciting collaboration on their website this year and similar pages are available on the APIC and CHICA websites.



It's Never Too Late to Prepare!

"The keys to success [in Infection Prevention and Control] are knowledgeable health care workers, an informed public, and an awareness that infection control is everyone's business." (CHICA-Canada IC Week Proclamation, 1989)

Participating in *National Infection Control Week* from October 18 to 22 provides organizations the opportunity to highlight Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) efforts and raise the profile of infection control. IC Week is an opportunity to have fun while educating staff and community members about the importance of infection control.

If you aren't ready for *National Infection Control Week* at your organization, visit the Regional Infection Control Network website at www.ricn.on.ca for ready-to-use activities and tools!

- Routine Practices and Additional Precautions pre-recorded education session for frontline staff
- Antibiotic Resistant Organisms pre-recorded education session for front-line staff
- Refreshed idea primer and activity package (puzzles, scavenger hunt, activity templates)
- Electronic games for environmental and dietary services staff
- Electronic game about influenza for use with all staff
- Bug of the Month fact sheets for use over the next 12 months

Throughout *National Infection Control Week*, stakeholders will receive a daily email from their RICN. ICPs and senior managers will also be invited to participate in several pre-recorded, archived resilience building sessions for teams on Positive Deviance and Culture Change. Contact your local RICN for details!

A New Home & New Look for the RICNs

The Regional Infection Control Networks have a new home with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)!

You may have noticed the OAHPP logo alongside the RICN logo on letters and newsletters such as this one over the past few months. The transition to the OAHPP means that the important work of the RICNs at the local level will be part of a coordinated and integrated provincial strategy.

As part of OAHPP, RICNs will have better access to scientific and technical expertise and in turn will be able to keep the agency up to date on issues relevant to the field to better facilitate knowledge exchange and training.

Environmental Cleaning Toolkits Now Available

The *Environmental Cleaning Best Practices Educational Toolkit* is now ready for distribution to all healthcare facilities and public health units across the province. This toolkit is a resource to assist those involved in the education and training of Environmental Services (ES) staff on best practices for environmental cleaning in health care facilities.

Each toolkit consists of:

- Six learning modules on CDs reflective of the content in the PIDAC best practices document for environmental cleaning
- A DVD with seven sample cleaning procedures
- Power Point presentations with speaker notes that allow instructors to modify the presentations
- A leader's guide to assist the instructor in planning education sessions
- Summary sheets as handouts
- Quizzes, posters and other useful tools

Information sessions on the toolkit will be held by video conference through the OHA on **October 28th** and **November 3rd**. **Save the date!**

For your toolkit, contact your local Regional Infection Control Network www.ricn.on.ca.



New ONTARIO REGULATION 79/10 made under the LONG-TERM CARE HOMES ACT, 2007

On July 1st, 2010, the new Long-Term Care (LTC) Homes Act, 2007, was proclaimed. The Ontario Regulation, 79/10 section 229, was also introduced. These acts replaced the old standards governing LTC. The new Act will replace the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act, the Nursing Homes Act, and the Charitable Institutions Act to become the single legislative authority over LTC homes.

With regard to the IPAC program, the impact for LTC homes is that the new regulations state there must be a staff member designated to coordinate the program, and they must have education and experience in infection prevention and control practices, including the following:

- Infectious diseases
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Data Collection and Trend Analysis
- Reporting Protocols
- Outbreak Management

Other aspects of these revisions include daily, required activities, additional IPAC requirements such as surveillance, hand hygiene program, immunization and screening measures, foot and nail care, skin and wound care, housekeeping and training.

We have posted to the RICN website a summary of the changes titled '*The Long Term Care Homes Act: Key IPAC Points*' for your reference. It can be found at www.ricn.on.ca

The new Long-Term Care Homes Act is available through E-Laws at the link below

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2010/elaws_src_regs_r10079_e.htm

CAEM Conference *DID IT RIGHT* ✓



The Conference and Trade show held at Blue Mountain Resort September 19—21st was a great success and enjoyed by all attendees. The event—*priceless!*

Dr. Dick Zoutman opened the conference on the Sunday evening with his presentation titled *Creating a Business Case for Best Practices*. He gave highlights on hospital costs pertaining to aspects such as: hospital structure costs, variable costs, indirect costs, intangible costs and microscopic costs. He also identified that the *three pillars* of infection prevention and control should concentrate on: Surveillance, Environment and Routine Practices. As well, the Canadian Hospitals Environmental Services Survey (C.H.E.S.S.) was introduced. The goals of this survey is to assess environmental resources and practices, provide strategies for improvement to help reduce healthcare-acquired infections, healthcare costs and to reduce morbidity and mortality rates.



Dr. Mary Vearncombe's intro to PIDAC's Environmental document placed focus on distinctions between high touch vs low touch surfaces and hotel clean vs hospital clean practices. Her key message was to get rid of the **D.I.R.T.** (Doing It Right TOGETHER!)



Dr. Maureen Cividino reviewed *Occupational Health Issues in Environmental Services*, reviewing legislative requirements for all healthcare aspects including standards and guidelines, protocols for bloodborne pathogens, and the importance and interpretation of "risk assessment."

Dr. Syed Sattar emphasized that 'wiping' is an integral part of cleaning and an incorrect product and process may actually increase risk of pathogen spread. Housekeeping staff require ongoing training and monitoring since there are multiple communication barriers such as language and constant staff turnaround. He also reviewed other technologies in addition to the chemical disinfectants currently marketed.

In addition, personal facility and industry experiences and successes were shared by Jo-Anne Vandierendonck, Cindy O'Neill, Doug Quong and Dean Waisman. Liz Rykert lead several interactive sessions engaging participants on techniques to *Change the Culture*.

Finally! Time was well spent on the introduction and review of the components of the toolkit. Each healthcare facility/site and public health unit will receive two toolkits over the next few weeks. One kit is to be given to the person(s) holding the infection control role and the other to the environmental/maintenance supervisor/manager section of the facility.

The Universal Influenza Immunization Program 2010/2011

The trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine for 2010-2011 will provide protection against the following strains:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus (pandemic H1N1 2009 virus; pH1N1)
- A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

Recommendations are based on epidemiological, genetic and serological tests on influenza virus isolates collected in the fall/early winter months of 2009-2010.

Current influenza activity in temperate countries in the southern hemisphere (Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa) provides us with information on possible influenza scenarios during the winter months in the northern hemisphere. WHO reports that seasonal influenza A/H1N1 viruses are undetectable in all five countries and that there has been variable circulation in each country of influenza pH1N1, A/H3N2 and B viruses.

On August 10, 2010, WHO declared the 2009 pandemic as ended and that the post-pandemic period had been entered. Severity of pH1N1 is unpredictable and that it will likely take on the behaviour of a seasonal virus and co-circulate with other seasonal influenza strains.

All individuals aged 6 months or older, who live, work or attend school in Ontario, and who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive the publicly-funded influenza vaccine. Special consideration to receive the vaccine has been identified in the following groups since they experienced higher rates of pH1N1-related hospitalization and more severe outcomes last year: persons with morbid obesity (BMI \geq 40), Aboriginal peoples and healthy children 2-4 years of age.

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Niagara Long Term Care Infection Control Group

Next meeting December 14

Location: Betty's Restaurant, Chippawa

Time: 8:00 am—9:30 am

Hamilton (and area) Long Term Care Infection Control Group

Next meeting November 25, 2010

Location: TBA

Time: 8:00 am—10:00 am

UPCOMING EDUCATION SESSIONS

Halton Public Health Long Term Care Day

October 20, 2010

Location: Halton Regional Building
Auditorium and Rotunda
1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON
9:00 am—12:00 pm

FREE WEBINAR

APIC's 2010 Webinar Series Begins!

APIC expects to offer more than 25 webinars this year, providing members with **FREE** access to the most current, practice-based information. More information on how to register at <http://webinars.apic.org/index.php>

International Infection Prevention Week 2010

Webinars:

I Believe in Zero CLABSIs

October 18, 2010 at 1:00 PM EDT

Infection Prevention is Everybody's Business

October 19 at 1:00 PM EDT

Targeting Zero SSI's: Bringing Evidence to the Bedside

October 20, 2010 at 1:00 PM EDT

Advances in Wound Care

October 21, 2010 at 1:00 PM EDT

Improving Patient Safety and Quality of Care: Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections

October 22, 2010 at 1:00 PM EDT

WEBBER TRAINING

All teleclasses are offered *free* at the CSICN office from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Call the office to reserve your spot.

October 21

Methods of Monitoring Hand Hygiene
Frequency and Compliance

October 28

Implementing Mandatory Vaccination for Healthcare Workers

November 4

Using Social Marketing to Prevent Healthcare Associated Infection

November 9

Why are Noroviruses Such Successful Pathogens in Healthcare Settings?

November 18

Infection Prevention Strategies in Home Care Settings

December 2

Validation of Special Ventilation Systems in Healthcare Facilities

December 9

Do Decolonization Strategies Work for MRSA?

December 16

Clostridium difficile: The Sinister Spore Saga

This newsletter was prepared by a collaborative effort of the RICNs and this Network.

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REGIONAL INFECTION
CONTROL NETWORKS

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Giving Health
a Helping Hand