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 - TB standards
 - Influenza

Upcoming Events:

- Surveillance Working Group Strategy
- Additional Workshops and Conferences

Contact us!

Articles from other RICN newsletters:
To treat or not to Treat...Asymptomatic Bacteriuria.
 Dr. Ian Davis
MRSA: To decolonize or not to decolonize? That is the question.
 Dr. Mary Vearncombe
C. Diff Skin contamination and Asymptomatic Carriers.
 Dr. Roger Sandre



REGIONAL INFECTION CONTROL NETWORKS

Mississauga Halton

Giving Health a Helping Hand

MHIC Network News

- Our newsletter is issued seasonally, but you can also find great infection prevention and control (IPAC) information on our website: www.ricn.on.ca.
- In each newsletter, we profile members of our Steering Committee, along with education and activity updates. Please send us something challenging to address, along with your articles and successes in IPAC courses, projects, or certification! Contact rcashmore@thc.on.ca.



Liz Van Horne presenting at the Town Hall during the Can Clean Conference

Spring "Cleaning"!

As the warmer weather and sunnier days increase, the MHICN staff members also focus on cleaning - especially of our hands and our environment. Environmental Cleaning is currently a "hot" topic in our health care settings. The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) is in the early stages of developing a best practice guideline dedicated to environmental cleaning. A town hall meeting of over 120 participants was held during the recent Can Clean Conference at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place to offer suggestions for content. See www.cssa.com. We eagerly anticipate this new guideline. An overview of Environmental Cleaning can be found on our back page.

Since the welcome addition of Risa Cashmore as our Infection Control Consultant in January, we have been able to provide much more educational support to our stakeholders, some of which is highlighted in this newsletter. Please contact us with your requests. We especially like "train the trainer" education plus mentoring those individuals who have the responsibility for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in their workplace.

Happy Spring! Yours in Infection Prevention and Control,

mashcroft@thc.on.ca

Introducing the MHICN Medical Coordinator: Dr. Neil Rau

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Neil Rau who has been hired as the Medical Coordinator for the Mississauga Halton Infection Control Network (MHICN). Neil is well known to the Mississauga and Halton health care settings in his role as Infectious Diseases Specialist. He has been contracted for 1 day per week, to collaborate with the Network Coordinator for the development and ongoing operation of the MHICN. His role includes providing medical advice and guidance to the Steering Committee, supporting integration and best practices in infection prevention and control throughout the region, and championing these within the physician community.



Introduction to Our Steering Committee Members



Pauline Dubeau RN is the Long Term Care – Halton representative. She has been the Infection Control Specialist at the Villages of Halton since 2006. Previously, Pauline was a part-time ICP at Tansley Woods, followed by full-time responsibility for infection prevention and control (IPAC) and quality at the Brant Centre. A nurse since 1978, Pauline has worked in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto in various capacities. Her experience is an asset to our Steering committee.

Our acute care ICP representative is Diane Weinwurm MLT ART CIC. Since 2000, Diane has been an ICP at Trillium Health Centre. Also co-chair of the Ontario Lung Association Tuberculosis Committee, Diane is a seasoned ICP with previous positions at University Health Network and microbiology laboratories. She has functioned as a mentor and preceptor to many novice ICPs and is a popular speaker on various IPAC subjects.



Regional Events Connect, Protect and Detect Workshop—April 23, 2008

The MHICN hosted a day long workshop for 120 Long Term Care Personal Support Workers, Nurses and ICPs on April 23, 2008 at the Novotel in Mississauga. Guest speaker was Jim Gauthier, MLT, CIC from Providence Centre in Kingston. His talks about “The Physics of Flying Feces” and “FRI and Acronym Madness” kept the audience spell bound and delighted. A surprise performance by the “Transmission Trio” was particularly memorable. Morning session topics were: Chain of Transmission, Hand Hygiene and Routine Practices. Participants rotated to various stations in the afternoon: Routine Practices game, Go and Glow!, Core Competencies, Donning and Doffing PPE and Core Competency Chain of Transmission. Comments included: “Excellent day”, “Incorporated practical and theory together”, “Very informative”, “Will teach other co-workers about the topics”.

More workshops will be offered in the fall!



How well did she wash her hands?
Brenda Smith (CWICN) is inspecting



PPE practice



Jim Gauthier demonstrating direct transmission of infection to a willing participant



Madeleine presenting Jim with some RICN treats!

Stretch break!
Participants cleaning their hands before coffee break



The Transmission Trio: (L to R): Madeleine Ashcroft, Risa Cashmore, Jim Gauthier and Laura Fraser (Erie-St. Clair Infection Control Network)

*MHICN Activities:
Inservices/Workshops/Train-the-Trainer Sessions/Videoconferencing Hosting/ Committees and More!*



Medtronics - March. "Pandemic Influenza and IPAC"



Red Cross Train-the-Trainer - February.
"Hand Hygiene and Routine Practices"



Post Inn Village - March. "Legionnaire's Disease"



Villa Forum - April . "AROs "



Workshop with Spectrum Health Care -
Infection Prevention and Control and the
Community PSW - March



Steering Committee Workshop, April 11,
Harbour Banquet and Conference Centre
with Bernard Hudon



Allendale on Flo's Birthday
"Nursing and IPAC"



Peel Community Infection Control Committee
March meeting



Highbourne Lodge – March. "UTIs"



The Westbury - April. "UTIs"



Debbie Valickis, CIC present-
ing a cake to encourage her
CIC study group colleagues



March Webber Teleclass
attendees. Note: Cathy Morris
is smiling because she just re-
ceived her CIC certification!

Interested in CIC certification? Call the MHICN office at 905 - 809-7948. Watch for notification of the start of a new CIC study group in our Summer newsletter.

Congratulations to our most recent CICs:

Debbie Valickis, (former PHN), now Infection Control Specialist, Peel Public Health
Catherine Morris, RN and part-time ICP, Trillium Health Centre
Lucia Salagean, (former PHI), now Infection Control Specialist, Halton Region Health Department



Mississauga Halton

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*

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Madeleine Ashcroft, Network Coordinator x 3313
Risa Cashmore, Infection Control Consultant x 3885
Veronica DeMelo, Administrative Assistant x 3219

We now have a direct line!
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Environmental Cleaning - An Overview by Risa Cashmore, Infection Control Consultant

Environmental cleaning is fundamental in reducing health care associated infections (HAIs) with the goal of decreasing the bioburden (the number and types of viable microorganisms that contaminate the environment). Key components include:

- following the principles of cleaning and disinfection
- staff education
- routine practices and
- quality monitoring.

1. Clean first:

Principles of cleaning are to be followed: move from clean to dirty, clean from top to bottom.

2. Disinfect next:

Disinfectants must have a drug identification number (DIN), and be used according to manufacturer's directions: appropriate surfaces, dilutions, contact time, expiry dates for concentrate and dilutions, level of disinfection desired, stability of dilution, etc. Disinfect high touch surfaces daily and increase the frequency as needed. High touch surfaces include: bedrails, TV remote, hand railings, grab bars, light switches, call bells, over bed tables, bedside tables, telephones, keypads, tabletops, chair arms, counter tops, taps/sinks, etc.

3. Educate staff:

Housekeepers must receive standardized education and follow routine practices at all times: hand hygiene, proper use of personal protective equipment, correct handling of sharps, etc. Procedures need to be in place and schedules followed for daily cleaning, discharge cleaning (terminal cleaning) and outbreak cleaning.

4. A process for accountability of cleaning is essential. Audit tools should be used to monitor compliance and quality of cleaning.

5. Additional measures may include a change in disinfectant during outbreaks.

Accomplishment of the goal to protect the environment is truly a challenge in our deficit-ridden health care settings where environmental/facility service budgets are regularly slashed. The soon-to-be released PIDAC best practice guideline regarding infection prevention and control resources will, hopefully, give weight to business proposals to increase resources for environmental cleaning. Also watch for PIDAC's upcoming best practice guideline for environmental cleaning in all health care settings.

References:

Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities. Centres for Disease Control. 2003 <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm>

HAND WASHING, Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Health Care. Canada Communicable Disease Report. December 1998. Supplement. Infection Control Guidelines. Volume 24S8. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/98pdf/cdr24s8e.pdf>

Ontario Best Practice Manual for Prevention and Control of Transmission of *Clostridium difficile* within Health Care Facilities. Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC), Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC). Revised November 2007. http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/best_prac/bp_cdif.pdf

Ontario Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization In All Health Care Settings. PIDAC, Public Health Division, MOHLTC. Revised April 30, 2006. http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic_cds.html

Ontario Best Practice Manual for Infection Prevention and Control of Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* and *Enterococci* in All Health Care Settings. PIDAC, Public Health Division, MOHLTC. March 2007. http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic_staff.html

Did you know?

Hand Hygiene

Guideline: Just released from **PIDAC**: "Best Practices for Hand Hygiene In All Health Care Settings". See http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic_hh.html

Pilot ICP course: The RICNs are currently piloting a year long non-acute care ICP course using voice-over power points, teleconferences and mentors? Two MHICN stakeholders have enrolled: Pauline Dubeau, ICS (Allendale/Post Inn Village and Creekway) and Magdalena Finat, DOC (Dom Lipa-Slovenian Nursing Home).

TB Standards: If you did not receive a copy of the new Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 6th Edition 2007 by March 2008, copies are available from the Ontario Lung Society for \$5. Call now to order: 1-888-566-5864. Also available on-line: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/pubs/tbstand07-eng.php

Influenza: The WHO recommends the influenza vaccine to be used in the 2008-2009 season contain the following: an A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like virus; an A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like virus; and a B/Florida/4/2006-like virus. The typing done by the National Microbiology Laboratory of Canada indicates that 98% of the B isolates were of the Florida strain which was not a component of the 2007-2008 vaccine. See: www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/recommendations2008_9north/en/index.html