

PICNet

Provincial Infection Control Network – BC “Debugging Healthcare Together!”

PICNet’s debut at the CHICA conference

PICNet was pleased to attend and participate in this year’s Community and Hospital Infection Control Association conference (CHICA-Canada), held June 9th to 14th at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. For the first time, PICNet exhibited in the conference trade show, and was able to proudly display and share both completed work and works-in-progress with the Canadian community of infection prevention and control professionals. There was a great deal of interest and positive feedback from conference delegates, and nearly 100 people from across the provinces signed up to receive our monthly newsletter, to keep updated on PICNet news and activities. Of particular interest was the clear potential for future collaboration and sharing with other provincial networks, and of learning from each other and the work being done across the country.

In the sessions, Valerie Schall gave an excellent presentation on the process behind the Respiratory Illness (RI) Outbreak guidelines recently completed by this PICNet working group. Valerie, the lead for the RI working group, spearheaded this successful pilot process, which is now being used as the template for PICNet’s current and future guideline development work. Bruce Gamage also presented, on behalf of PICNet, in a panel session devoted to exploring the different models of provincial network responses to infection prevention and control challenges.

To all of you who stopped by our Exhibition booth to introduce yourselves and learn more about our work, thank-you! We look forward to building on the relationships formed through the CHICA conference.

Communications Leadership Group: An Update

The Communications Leadership Group (CLG) will be meeting on July 11th. Last meeting, group members broke off into sub-groups to complete a bi-annual review of the PICNet web site content. The group checks for accuracy, relevancy and gaps. At the July meeting, sub-groups will converge again to discuss their findings and suggestions as a larger group.

The CLG is also currently working on an information pamphlet for people considering a career in infection prevention and control. The pamphlet will introduce infection prevention and control, and briefly discuss the role of a practitioner. The CLG is also very pleased to welcome new

members to the group, Margaret McLaughlin and Deb Connell, who bring to the table a very welcome Occupational Health background and perspective. Thank-you to Margaret and Deb for joining this team!

PICNet gets involved at the International Commission on Occupational Health Conference

PICNet has taken a supporting role in the organization of a pre-conference session at the upcoming International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) Conference, to be held this year in Vancouver from October 26th to 28th. The session will be a limited space workshop on Healthcare Worker Occupational Health in developing countries and low resource settings. For more information on the ICOH conference, visit their web site at <http://www.acoem.org/icoh.aspx>

Ontario Regional Infection Control Networks/Canadian Association of Environmental Management to co-host conference

The Regional Infection Control Networks (RICN) in Ontario are pleased to be partnering with the Canadian Association of Environmental Management (CAEM) to present a conference on infection prevention and control targeted at environmental management staff and infection control practitioners. The conference, to be held September 23-25, 2007, will take place at the Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood Ontario.

The main focus of this conference is to connect infection prevention and control practitioners and environmental service staff to underscore the importance of environmental services in the practice of infection control. Please distribute this to your environmental services departments and any others who would be interested in attending.

An introductory letter from the CAEM, along with the conference flyer, registration form and agenda have been posted for your convenience on the PICNet web site, <http://www.picnetbc.ca/page207.htm> For more information, please contact Cathy Egan at cegan@cmh.org.

Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Working Group: An Update

The Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Working Group met on June 27th by teleconference. At the meeting, the Terms of Reference for the group were reviewed and accepted, followed by a review and discussion of the literature review conducted for PICNet earlier this year by Fern Davey. The group discussed existing resources and recently published guidelines, and the various sub-groups agreed to continue reviewing these resources with an eye to what parts of them might be included in the PICNet guidelines. Sub-groups reported on their progress, and next steps within the groups were determined.

Due to the extra work load for many of the group members stemming from the current province-wide audit of Sterile Processing Divisions, the Working Group decided on a goal of producing a first draft of the guidelines by the end of November, 2007. The sub-groups will be meeting at least once

over the summer, and a half-day workshop will be held in mid-October for the larger group to come together.

Clostridium difficile Surveillance Working Group Update

PICNet's *Clostridium difficile* (CDAD) Surveillance Working Group met by teleconference on June 25th. Working Group lead Leslie Forrester translated and presented to the group Quebec's CDAD Surveillance protocol for review and discussion. The next steps for the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) were also discussed, and the group agreed that a workshop would be held to work through the difficult areas of the PIA document, as identified by Leslie and IMIT consultant Praveen Johal.

The group also reviewed the results of the evaluation survey for PICNet's surveillance tool. A major theme in evaluations was the difficulty in applying the definitions for relapse, recurrence and reinfection. More discussion of the evaluation is planned for the group's next meeting, which will be held in mid-August depending on group members' availability.

Webber Training debrief

Since February 2006 PICNet has purchased and hosted educational classes offered by Webber Training (<http://webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php>). These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

This month, there will be only one teleclass offered.

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
July 26 th , 2007	CDC Guideline Review: Disinfection & Sterilization	Dr. Bill Rutala, UNC School of Medicine

Upcoming PICNet Meetings

Meeting	Date
ARO Working Group	tbd
CDAD Working Group	tbd
Communications Leadership Group	July 11

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picnet@bccdc.ca

www.picnetbc.ca