

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- New to the Team
- NEOICN Open House
- Medical Management of C-Diff Associated Disease

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Network Newsletter

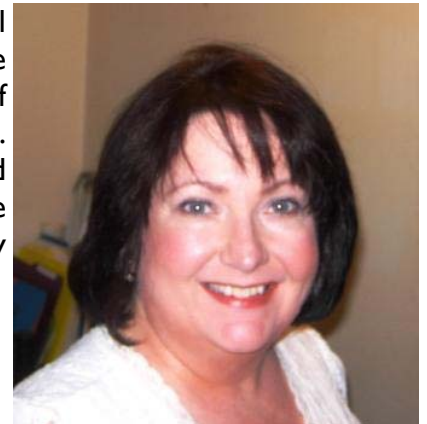
VOLUME 5

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New to the NEOICN Team!

NEOICN welcomes Laurie Boyer!

Laurie Boyer is a Registered Nurse, pleased to be recently employed as the Infection Control Consultant for the Northeastern Ontario Infection Control Network. Laurie's professional experience includes Infection Prevention & Control in acute care, clinical education and leadership in the perioperative setting as well as the development and delivery of post-graduate specialty and basic nursing education. She is a Certified Infection Control Practitioner and maintains professional certification in Perioperative Nursing. Laurie is a student of Nipissing University and is studying Education at the graduate level.



In her spare time, Laurie enjoys camping, kayaking, being a football spectator and playing the fiddle (badly!)

Laurie's office will be located in North Bay. Contact information is forthcoming, however, she can be reached by email at lboyer@hrsrh.on.ca.

Please join us at the NEOICN Open House on Monday,

November 12, 2007 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm

Mark your calendar!!!



Featured Steering Committee Members



Kim Carter
Coordinator of Infection Prevention & Control, North Bay General Hospital

A native of Northern Ontario, Kim Carter is a representative of acute care health care setting on the North Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network. Her present position is Coordinator of Infection Prevention & Control at the North Bay General Hospital, a role she finds tremendously rewarding. With a previous background in pediatric nursing, Kim has been in the Infection Control setting for eight years. Certified in Infection Control, Kim enjoys the variety and challenges the field offers. As a member of the NEOICN, Kim is looking forward to the new partnership that will be established among Infection Control stakeholders and the improved Infection Prevention and Control activities that will occur as a result of the Regional Infection Control Networks.

Ruth Gauthier
Administrator, Leisureworld

Ruth has been a member of the NEOICN from the planning stages in August 2005. Ruth graduated from the Registered Nursing Assistant program Canadore College 1983, Registered Nursing Program 1993 and most recently received Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Francis Xavier University in 2005. Her background is in Long Term Care having been employed at Leisureworld Caregiving Centres for 23 years and as a Nurse Auditor with the MOHLTC Levels of Care Classification. Ruths' main focus has been in the Nursing department having worked under the Health Care Aide, RPN, RN and Director of Care roles. As a nursing lead in the Long Term Care environment, the Director of Care assumes the role of Infection Control Coordinator in the home, working closely with all departments, community agencies and particularly Public Health.



Let's make a difference for the people in our communities!

Meet members of the NEOICN Steering Committee

Promoting Excellence in Infection Control!



“Hand in Hand Together We Support Infection Prevention and Control” is our new tag line!

Congratulations to Suzanne Pelletier, Sudbury Regional Hospital, winner of the Tag Line Contest.

Featured Association

The Central Service Association of Ontario (C.S.A.O) is a non-profit organization established for educational purposes.



Central service departments provide support to all patient care services in a health care facility. They are responsible for decontaminating, cleaning, processing, assembling, sterilizing, storing and distributing the medical devices and supplies needed in patient care, especially during surgery.

With the ever-expanding technological advancements in medical supplies, instrumentation, medical devices and equipment, highly trained individuals are needed in the field of central service.

Central service technicians are trained in principles, methods and control of sterilization processes; and the cleaning, processing, packaging, distributing, storing and inventory control of sterile goods, instruments, trays and equipment.

WHAT DOES THE C.S.A.O. DO FOR YOU? Colleen Landers Registered Nurse Consultant

Education has always been our primary goal:

The C.S.A.O. has upgrading our Central Service Techniques course at a cost of over \$100,000.00. Six new modules have been added to the course and the other sixteen have been updated. The updating was required to maintain the highest of standards and to keep pace with new technologies. Funding has come from course registration, conference profits and association registration fees. **In order to meet the needs of people who could not attend the classroom course due to their geographic location, a correspondence version of our program was developed.** Re-certification is required every 5 years, and a refresher program is available. This will assist central processing workers to maintain and update their knowledge. Education sessions continue to be offered each year at the annual conference.

Conference:

Our annual C.S.A.O. Conference continues with our commitment to education. Many other professional groups have long recognized our conference for its educational content, professionalism and extreme value. This could not happen without our exhibitor's support.

Chapters:

The C.S.A.O. has divided the province into chapters according to geographic areas. The annual provincial membership meeting occurs at the conference in Toronto. The role of chapters across the province is to

provide additional education sessions usually 4 times annually. All chapters have their own executive and chapter meetings as set out in our constitution. **This year each chapter was given the opportunity to draw for 2 chapter members to receive a free conference registration. At the chapter level, members are able to have input into education and vote on the executive.**

Communication:

As a member in good standing, you will receive at least 4 newsletters, 1 annual report and our C.S.A.O. magazine. This year the C.S.A.O. launched its web site, www.csao.net. The executive is extremely excited about the communication potential from this web site. We have added a chapter's section. Each chapter has posted minutes and agendas of meetings, advertisement for the education sessions and other information fire their members. This site has allowed us to communicate nationally and with proper vision globally.

Canadian Standards Association:

The C.S.A.O. has representation on the Canadian Standards Association. The C.S.A. Standards cover every part of our practice, from the decontamination area through to the storage and dispensing of our goods. This ensures quality patient care. We represent you on these committees, echoing concerns and making sure that standards are workable as well as safeguarding our practice.

Health Canada and the OHA

The CSAO represents all members on these organizations and in the last year the Ministry of Health recognized the CSAO techniques course as acceptable qualifications to perform reprocessing.

For more information, to join C.S.A.O., register for the Central Services Techniques Course in your area or contact CSAO, please visit www.csao.net

Website of the Month



Your site for infection control and endoscopy news

Welcome to the new **MyEndoSite.com!** Your interactive and comprehensive site for discussions about **infection control** and the **prevention of disease transmission in the endoscopic setting**, as well as the safe and efficient practice of, among other practices, endoscope and instrument reprocessing, aseptic technique and other operating room practices, central sterile processing, materials management, risk management, legal affairs, and hospital and surgicenter administration.

Each month this website is visited and read by thousands of healthcare practitioners. This newsletter, website, and all of its content are offered free to the public.

My EndoSite features:

- Important medial reports that discuss instrument reprocessing mishaps.
- Discussions of recent nosocomial outbreak investigations.
- Recent FDA Public Health Advisories, device recalls and safety alerts.
- Descriptions of how to reprocess different instruments.
- Links to important medical articles and other important education material
- Links to methods for sampling endoscopes, automated reprocess, water
- Links to (and reviews of) published infection control and instrument reprocessing guidelines, FDA guidance documents, and CDC recommendations
- Discussions of aseptic technique and operating room procedures
- Perspectives, editorials, reviews and position statements
- Surveys that provide insight into changing ends and current practice
- Quizzes that may be used for accreditation and CE units
- Much, much more....

Just In!!! Q-Net...Working for You!

- **New!** "Materials Management In Healthcare"
- ASGE's statement on manual cleaning
- How to stop the spread of Serratia in a NICU
- Infection control: Behind the scenes: An article that reveals AAMI's (flawed?) position on monitoring the quality of water used to rinse medical instruments.

For more information visit WWW.MYENDOSITE.COM

Core Competencies Education Now Available Online

All three acute care modules can now be viewed at MOHLTC Infection Prevention web page.

- ◆ Routine Practices
- ◆ Hand Hygiene
- ◆ Chain of Transmission modules

www.health.gov.on.ca/infectionprevention

Medical Management of *Clostridium Difficile* Associated Disease

Dr. Sandre recently presented on the topic “ Medical Management of *Clostridium difficile* associated disease (CDAD)” at the North Bay Hospital’s Medical Grand Rounds. The rounds focused on the medical therapy available and the current evidence based approach to management. It opened with a simple true or false quiz:

1. Initial CDAD should be treated with Metronidazole.
2. In Canada, the NAP1 strain has only been seen in Quebec.
3. Vancomycin is superior to Metronidazole for recurrent CDAD.
4. The evidence strongly supports the use of Probiotics as adjunctive treatment for CDAD.
5. The evidence indicates that intracolonic (rectal) Vancomycin has no role in treating CDAD.
6. The Canadian hospital rate of CDAD is:

- 1/1000 admissions
- 5/1000 admissions
- 25/1000 admissions
- 70/1000 admissions

The current guidelines still support Metronidazole as first line therapy but its usefulness in recurrent CDAD is being questioned. There is growing evidence that Metronidazole failures are increasing with Vancomycin showing superiority especially in those with severe CDAD as noted in a recent prospective study: *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2007;45 (1 August);302-307. Vancomycin may be superior to Metronidazole for recurrent disease, especially if given with tapered or pulsed dosing. Treating recurrent disease continues to be a real challenge with the need for prospective randomized trials with CDAD and the NAP1/027 hypervirulent strain, which has been seen in most provinces.

The evidence was examined with adjunctive therapies such as probiotics, ion resin binders, combination therapy, early prophylactic therapy, intracolonic Vancomycin, intravenous immune globulin and fecal replacement. The evidence for most of these therapies is either lacking or poor at best. The only adjunctive therapies showing some benefit was the use of the probiotic, *Saccharomyces boulardii*, in treating patients with more severe or recurrent CDAD, the use of intracolonic vancomycin in some patients with severe disease, and the rapid response seen with fecal replacement—a difficult and cumbersome therapy but emphasizing the important role of normalizing the colonic flora to battle this disease.

The Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) is monitoring CDAD rates in sentinel hospitals across Canada and the overall rate is approximately 5 cases/1000 admissions, but varies from province to province. The NAP1/027 strain accounts for 20% of cases in Ontario and Alberta and 76% in Quebec.

There is increasing need for ongoing diligence in regards to proper infection control measures to prevent the spread of *C. difficile* and managing cases quickly with a high index of suspicion for recurrent disease.



Article provided by Dr. Roger Sandre, NEOICN Medical Coordinator

What's Happening at the Network?

PIDAC Draft Document Review

Two focus group sessions were held within the region. Focus group members reviewed the draft document "Recommendations for IPAC Programs in Ontario for All Health Care Settings" along with Coordinator. Participants were from various sectors such as PH, acute care, non-acute care, community agencies, EMS and CCAC. Great feedback was received and great discussions occurred. Feedback from the sessions and two independent reviewers will be returned to PIDAC for their consideration in producing a final document.



Infection Prevention & Control Core Competency Education (IPCCCE) Program

Trainers in 10 acute care facilities in Northeastern Ontario have received hands-on, on-site education from the NEOICN staff, in order to support them to deliver the core competency modules within their own institutions. The three modules, "Hand Hygiene", "Chain of Transmission" and "Routine Practices" are the first of 8 modules being created by the MOHLTC to enhance education on IPAC throughout the province. The Program has been well-received to date. Anson General Hospital and Sudbury Regional Hospital have requested and will be receiving training in the months ahead.



View from drive to Wawa

RICN Website - French Information

Information is now available in French on the NEOICN section of the website. Go to the Northeastern Ontario region's link at www.ricn.on.ca

Coming soon to NEOICN:

CIC Study Group

A study group is being formed to support members preparing to write the CIC exam. A videoconference meeting is being planned to take place soon in order to plan the group's strategy. Contact Laurie Boyer at lboyer@hrsrh.on.ca or Micheline Beaudry at mcbeaudry@hrsrh.on.ca for more information.

Francophone Conference

A French-language IPAC Conference is being planned for the last week of March 2008, by the Northeastern Ontario Infection Control Network, in conjunction with the Champlain Infection Control Network. Members are encouraged to promote attendance for Francophone staff members from all disciplines. A survey was recently sent out. Please take a few moments to complete and return to Micheline Beaudry at mcbeaudry@hrsrh.on.ca.

Long-Term Care/Community Care Providers Seminars

Sessions are being planned for the upcoming months on infection prevention and control subjects with relevance to Long Term and Community Care settings. Sessions will be held in Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie which will also be available through videoconferencing to other sites. Dates and topics will be finalized soon. Further information will be e-mailed to members.

APIC Webinars

“Webinar” is short for web-based seminar. Webinars are like seminars; the difference is that the Webinars take place over the internet and do not require a phone. Once participants download the Webinar they want to view, they are able to view the presentation slides and hear the presentation audio recording via the computer. Throughout 2007, APIC is proudly sponsoring an ongoing series of Webinars. All of these APIC Webinars are free, hosted by WebEx, and are sponsored by unrestricted educational grants from APIC industry partners. Access to the internet is required to view these valuable Webinars.

APIC Webinars are available as recorded events 24 hours after the live webinar has taken place.

To Get Involved:

- Visit www.apic.org

- Click on the ‘Education’ Heading on the left side of the screen.
- Then, click on ‘Webinars’ which will allow you to either ‘Enroll in a Live Webinar’ , or ‘Enroll in a Recorded Webinar’.
- If you want to view a previously recorded webinar, click on ‘Enroll in a Recorded Webinar’, click on the first step and follow the rest of the instructions.
- The presentation slides can also be accessed for printing from www.apic.org, in the education section, under webinars (follow the steps above.) Directly below the ‘Enroll in a Recorded Webinar’ section, you will see a section entitled ‘Slides From Previous Webinars. Find the webinar you are interested in, click on the blue title and the slides will appear on your screen.

Previously Recorded APIC Webinars that may interest you:

- CDC Isolation Guidelines on Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs)
- Designing a Program to Eliminate MRSA Transmission Part I: Making the Clinical Case
- Designing a Program to Eliminate MRSA Transmission Part II: Making the Business Case
- Workplace Cultural Transformation - Using Positive Deviance to Eliminate MRSA Transmission
- The Role of Surveillance in a Successful Program to Eliminate MRSA Transmission
- The Role of Isolation and Contact Precautions in the Elimination of Transmission of MRSA
- TB in the US...Déjà vu? Raising Awareness for Healthcare Facilities
- HICPAC Isolation Guideline: Infection Control on the Horizon

CHICA NEO CHAPTER

CHICA–Canada is a national, multi-disciplinary, voluntary association of Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) committed to improving the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control.

Soon it will be time to register for the 2008 membership. Look for the 2008 registration form found at www.chica.org/about_join.html

New or renewing members will be able to use the 2008 Membership Application to submit both national and chapter fees. Chapter fees will be submitted to the NEO Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Subscription to the *Canadian Journal of Infection Control* and access to online journal

Annual Member and Source Guide

Professional exchange of ideas through the Discussion Board

Access to CBIC certification

Local Chapter activities and support

Participation in Interest Groups

Development of infection control standards

Reduced registration fees for annual conference and other educational offerings

Access to Members Area section of the website

Access to on-line distance education

Featured Conference

Be sure to attend...

**Algoma's Regional Infection Control Conference ,
November 1 & 2 in Sault Ste. Marie.
"You Have a Hand in Infection Control"**

is endorsed by CHICA-Canada and features a plethora of expert presenters bringing the latest updates and sound advice in Infection Prevention and Control from across all sectors.

Do not forget your bathing suit so that you can try out the big slide at The Water Tower Inn.

Agenda and registration information may be found at:

<http://www.chica.org/pdf/071102conf.pdf>

or call Pina Hladki, (705) 759-7458

While you are there, be sure to visit us in the exhibit hall.

The NEOICN will be there in support of the Network and the CHICA-NEO Chapter.

Member Article

Pandemic Influenza: Is your hospital ready?

By Lindsey Parry, Canadian Blood Services

If pandemic influenza were to hit Canadian soil tomorrow, would hospitals be ready? Chances are that it already has a contingency plan in the making.

But what if – despite all the planning in the world – hospitals hadn't taken blood requirements into account? What if there weren't enough red cells to help accident victims or for surgery, or platelets to treat leukemia or cancer patients, or plasma for people suffering from burns or shock.

Since December 2005, the Canadian Blood Services team has identified scenarios that could occur as a result of pandemic influenza. While the extent of its impact cannot be predicted, the blood system will certainly be affected:

- A significant number of donors may not be available to donate during a pandemic due to illness, fear of illness, or government-imposed limitations on public gatherings;
- Like every other employer, we may experience staff absenteeism, which could affect our ability to collect, test, process and distribute blood.

We have developed a number of strategies to help continue running operations as smoothly as possible during a pandemic. Some of these strategies involve recruiting new donors, and identifying employees with particular skills to make up for possible staffing shortages.

For information about pandemic planning, including a downloadable version of Canadian Blood Services' **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan**, visit www.blood.ca/pandemic. For information on blood donations or to book your appointment to donate blood, call 1 888 2 DONATE.

Calendar of Events

Webber Teleclass Schedule

(www.webbertraining.com)

- Nov 6** What Can We Learn from the History of Communicable Disease Control
- Nov 8** Hazard Vulnerability Analysis for Infection Control
- Nov 15** An Approach to Outbreak Management - Using Biostats to Clobber Bugs
- Nov 29** Effective Infection Control Promotion in 3-5 Steps
- Dec 13** Water Quality Issues Pertaining to Medical Device Reprocessing

Conferences/Events

November 1 & 2, 2007

You Have a HAND in Infection Control

Algoma's Water Tower

Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

For more information, forward your contact information to: continuingeducation@saultcollege.ca

November 5 to 7, 2007

OHA Health Achieve

Toronto, Ontario

Be sure to visit the RICN booth

November 12, 2007

NEOICN Open House

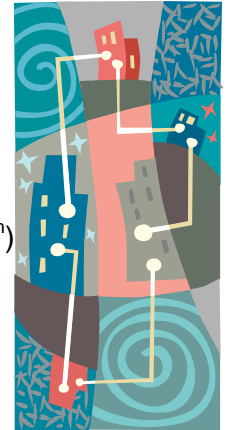
10 Elm Street, Office Tower, Unit 302, Sudbury

March 27 and 28, 2008

Francophone Symposium

Dual Site - Sudbury and Ottawa

More information available soon!



NEOICN IPAC Education

The NEOICN will provide Infection Prevention and Control Education Sessions by videoconference every second Thursday from 12:30-1:30 pm (beginning November 8th) Some upcoming topics include:

- Acronym Madness - What you Need to Know (Routine Practices)
- Environmental Cleaning
- Microbiology 101
- Infection Transmission and Proper Use of PPE
- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Prevention of Blood and Body Fluid exposure

Check the NEOICN Education Calendar at www.ricn.on.ca for specific dates and times. Regional members are encouraged to suggest topics for future sessions by contacting the NEOICN office.

The 2007-2008 Influenza Season is upon us!

Although the term "FLU" is loosely used to apply to anything that ails us from the common cold to any type of stomach or bowel illness, **the flu is a severe viral illness that affects the respiratory tract.** There are 3 types of the virus: Type A, B and C – Type A is the most severe of the three.

- New composition made yearly based on viruses circulating from the previous year: A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (AH1N1) A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (AH3N2) B/Malaysia/2506/2004(B)
- Contains an inactivated virus and therefore you cannot get the flu from immunization
- On average, antibodies are developed within a two week period
-

PLEASE WATCH FOR REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION BULLETINS REGARDING INFLUENZA AND IMMUNIZATION WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION.



CONTACT US



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RICN Website www.ricn.on.ca



Important Links

Certification in Infection Control, Candidate's Handbook

www.goamp.com

www.cbic.org

PIDAC's Best Practice Documents:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/pidac/pidac_mn.html

