

PICNet

Provincial Infection Control Network – BC “Debugging Health Care Together!”

PICNet’s Draft Provincial Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Guidelines Now Available on Web Site for Review

PICNet’s draft ARO guidelines have now been posted to our Web site (www.picnetbc.ca) for feedback, comments and review from our Community of Practice. We welcome and encourage your comments and suggestions, to help us develop the most accurate, comprehensive and useful document possible.

The draft document will be posted for review until June 30th, at which time all comments and feedback received will be brought back to the ARO Guidelines Working Group for consideration. We would like to thank the members of our ARO Working Group for their dedication and continuing efforts to produce these guidelines.

PICNet at the 2008 Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada (CHICA) Conference

We would like to extend a warm thank-you to everyone who dropped by to visit us at our booth at the CHICA-Canada conference in Montreal from June 2nd to the 4th. PICNet Management Office staff shared the latest news and updates on PICNet projects with hundreds of infection prevention and control professionals from across the country, discussing common challenges and sharing potential solutions.

Dozens of conference delegates signed up to receive our monthly newsletter, as a means of keeping up-to-date with PICNet projects throughout the year. This event was an excellent opportunity to meet and liaise with our national and international infection prevention and control colleagues.

“Network of Networks” Pre-Conference Workshop at CHICA

In the fall of 2007, PICNet Management Office submitted a proposal to the CHICA Scientific Committee to organize and sponsor a half-day workshop at the 2008 CHICA Conference, entitled the “Network of Networks”. Across the country, infection prevention and control is increasingly in the spotlight, with federal and provincial governments working to develop or expand infection prevention and control programs and responses.

This informal workshop represented an opportunity for those involved in provincially-directed infection prevention and control programs to come together and learn from each other's experiences, comparing structures and models, programs and projects, and identifying potential opportunities for collaboration in an effort to avoid "recreating the wheel."

Along with various provincial infection prevention and control leaders from Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC, representatives from the Public Health Agency of Canada also attended and contributed to the morning. It was immediately apparent that there was far more than a morning's worth of discussions to be had, but this was, nonetheless, a good start. The workshop challenged us all to work harder to find ways to collaborate more effectively with each other, across regions and provinces.

This group is planning to meet again by teleconference in later June, to discuss the next steps for this informal network, and how we can start to move forward with some of the ideas for collaboration that emerged in the workshop discussion.

Welcome Joanne Archer!

PICNet is very pleased to be welcoming Joanne Archer to the Management Office team this month, as our new Infection Prevention and Control Consultant/Educator. Since 2005, Joanne has been involved in numerous PICNet projects and initiatives, and has also served as an active member of our provincial Steering Committee. She will be working from Prince George, and will bring to the position her considerable experience and expertise in infection prevention and control in BC. Joanne's email address will be jarcher@phsa.ca

PICNet's Provincial Surveillance Program for *Clostridium difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD)

Work continues towards the launch of BC's first provincial surveillance program for *Clostridium difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD). The system is currently being piloted in Fraser Health, and the groundwork is being laid for rolling-out this system across all BC Health Authorities. This work has been made possible through the hard work and collaboration of epidemiologists, IMIT experts, infection control professionals, medical microbiologists and other health care leaders from across Health Authorities.

This voluntary surveillance system will enable Health Authorities to submit anonymized, non-nominal data from both regional and facility levels to a secure provincial data repository. PICNet epidemiologists will then compile provincial CDAD rates and trends that will be shared with the submitters. This will enable benchmarks to be established, by which Health Authorities and facilities can measure themselves and apply interventions as necessary for improved infection prevention and control.

Home and Community Health Care Guidelines – An Update

Work is being completed on the first draft of PICNet's Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Home and Community Health Care Settings. Some revisions remain to be implemented, based on the feedback of the Working Group, following a face-to-face meeting in early April. When ready, the document will receive wider circulation for feedback from our Community of Practice.

Project Priority and Planning (P3) Committee: Upcoming Working Groups and Projects

PICNet's P3 Committee met in Montreal at the CHICA conference to discuss the timelines and next steps for two PICNet Steering Committee-approved projects for 2008-2009. Following the completion of the Antibiotic Resistant Guidelines and Home Health Guidelines, PICNet will issue a call-out for Working Group volunteers to participate in two new projects – a needs assessment for infection prevention and control in long term care facilities in BC, and the development of a set of provincial Gastrointestinal Outbreak Guidelines. We anticipate beginning work on these projects in the autumn of 2008, and in fact, some of you have already expressed interest in participating in the Working Groups. More on these upcoming projects to come!

Webber Training Debrief

Since February 2006 PICNet has purchased and hosted educational classes offered by Webber Training (<http://webbertraining.com/schedule1.php>). These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

Webber Training June 2008 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
June 19, 2008	Environmental Sampling, Methods and Strategies	Dr. Lynne Schulster, CDC
June 25, 2008	(South Pacific Teleclass) Peripheral Line Sepsis	Dr. Steve McBride, Auckland District Health Board
June 26, 2008	CBIC Teleclass 3 – The CIC Examination Process: Computer Based Testing	CBIC Board Members & Guests

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