



On-line Education Module for Infection Prevention and Control: Now Available on PICNet’s Web Site!

A new, interactive and very attractive on-line education module for infection prevention and control has now been completed, thanks to the collaborative efforts of a Vancouver Coastal Health/Provincial Health Services Authority team of infection prevention and control professionals and education/technology experts.

This module is freely available to all Health Authorities within BC. Employees who wish to take this course for credit should check with their specific Health Authority to determine whether it is currently available in their own region (currently, it is at <http://ccrs.vch.ca> for Vancouver Coastal Health and <https://learninghub.phsa.ca> for the Provincial Health Services Authority).

As well, any other individuals not employed by a Health Authority, but still interested in the educational value of the module, can now access it through the PICNet web site at www.picnetbc.ca or directly at <http://picnetbc.ca/page220.htm>. Please note, while PICNet is very pleased to make this course available through our web site, we are unable to offer it as a credit-course through our site.

Congratulations to all those involved in this ambitious and successful project. We hope you all have an opportunity to check out this excellent new educational tool.

2009 PICNet Conference Planning Committee: Call-Out for Members

In many ways, our 2008 Conference seems like it was just yesterday. However, it is time to start planning again for our 2009 event!

As part of the Conference Planning Committee, you will be asked to provide feedback, direction and advice on both the logistics and the content of this two-day event. Previous committee members have also taken responsibility for a variety of planning tasks (i.e. organizing the poster displays, staffing the registration table, helping plan for the vendors and exhibition tables, etc.). We also rely on our Planning Committee to help focus the content planning and to ensure that the topics that will be explored will be timely, relevant and useful for conference delegates.

To sign up for this committee, or if you have any related questions, please email Sarah Pugh at spugh@phsa.ca or picnet@phsa.ca

PICNet’s Draft Provincial Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Guidelines

The next meeting of PICNet’s Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines Working Group has been called for Thursday August 21, 2008, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. by teleconference. The group will review in detail recent edits, changes, and feedback on the document, and will map out the next steps towards the completion and release of these guidelines.

Infection Prevention and Control Needs Assessment in Long Term Care

Last month, PICNet put a call-out to the Infection Prevention and Control Community of Practice for health care professionals interested in participating in an upcoming Working Group that will be focusing on conducting a needs assessment for infection prevention and control in long term care settings. We received a very positive response, with a wide range and variety of professionals indicating their interest in participating on this project. Thank-you to all of you who have expressed your interest. This Working Group will be getting underway this fall.

PICNet Governance: Introducing PICNet’s new Advisory Committee

In order to enhance PICNet’s accountability and efficiency, we are currently undergoing some modifications in our governance model. In the new model, each Health Authority and various related professional organizations have been asked to officially appoint a representative to an Advisory Committee, which will take the place of the former Steering Committee. Fiscal accountability is aligned in the new model through PICNet’s own reporting structure through the Provincial Health Services Authority, while program and project advice will continue to be drawn from PICNet’s Community of Practice through the representatives on the Advisory Committee. Former PICNet Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Drs. Elizabeth Bryce and Judy Isaac-Renton, will continue to provide guidance in their new role as Co-Directors.

Many of the Advisory Committee members are former Steering Committee members, but there have been some changes and new additions, and some official appointments are still pending. The new Committee will convene for the first time in late September. Members of the Committee, at this point, include:

- ◆ Dr. Eva Thomas, Provincial Health Services Authority
- ◆ Dr. Rob Parker, Health Officer’s Council
- ◆ Dr. Diane Roscoe, Vancouver Coastal Health
- ◆ Janice de Heer, Interior Health
- ◆ Dr. Pam Kibsey, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- ◆ Dr. William Bowie, Infectious Diseases Professional Representative
- ◆ Dr. Annalee Yassi, Occupational Health Professional Representative
- ◆ Dr. Sylvie Champagne, BC Association of Medical Microbiologists
- ◆ Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton, PICNet Co-Director
- ◆ Dr. Elizabeth Bryce, PICNet Co-Director

- ◆ Representatives from Northern Health, Fraser Health, CHICA-BC, BCCDC, and the Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare have yet to be officially appointed
- ◆ Bruce Gamage, PICNet Manager (non-voting)
- ◆ Joanne Archer, PICNet Infection Control Educator/Consultant (non-voting)
- ◆ Sarah Pugh, PICNet Projects and Communications Coordinator (non-voting)

Annual Report

PICNet’s 2007-2008 Annual Report is now posted to our web site, on the home page at www.picnetbc.ca. This report provides a summary of our recent, current and upcoming work, and helps us gauge how far we really have come over the last year. We invite you to read through the report – comments and feedback are always welcomed.

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

PICNet continues to work hard towards the launch of BC’s first provincial surveillance program for *Clostridium difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD). Legal Participation Agreements have now been circulated to all Health Authorities for sign-off. Pilots are nearing completion in Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health, where the system technology and its compatibility with existing Health Authority databases is being tested. These pilots are laying the groundwork for rolling-out the system across all BC Health Authorities.

This voluntary surveillance system will enable Health Authorities to submit anonymized data from both regional and facility levels to a provincial data repository using a secure web portal. 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 continues on the first draft of PICNet’s Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Home and Community Health Care Settings. These guidelines will soon go back to the Working Group for further honing and revision, before being circulated more widely for feedback, comments and input.

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.

Webber Training August 2008 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
August 7, 2008	(Free Teleclass) Disinfection & Sterilization – Current Issues & New Research	Dr. William Rutala, University of North Carolina
August 14, 2008	(Free South Pacific Teleclass) Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamases and Infection Control	Professor David Paterson, University of Queensland, Australia

Upcoming PICNet Committee and Working Group Meetings

Group or Committee	Date and Time
Antibiotic Organism Working Group	1:30-3:30 pm, August 21, 2008
Communications Leadership Group	1:00-2:30 pm, September 15, 2008
PICNet Advisory Committee	12:00-2:30 pm, September 29, 2008
Long Term Care Needs Assessment Working Group	To Be Announced
Home and Community Health Care Guidelines Working Group	To Be Announced
CDAD Surveillance Project Working Group	To Be Announced
Project Priority and Planning Committee	To Be Announced

Provincial Infection Control Network of BC

picnet@phsa.ca

www.picnetbc.ca