



Updates on the Roll-Out of Provincial Surveillance Program for *Clostridium difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD)

Please join us in welcoming Ellie Sheng to the PICNet team, as the new Surveillance Systems Coordinator. Ellie graduated from the School of Health Information Science at University of Victoria in 2005 and was previously employed as a Decision Support Consultant with BC Mental Health and Addiction Services, PHSA. In the past four years, Ellie has been mainly involved in information needs assessments, development of decision support processes and performance monitoring and measuring. In her new role Ellie will be working closely with the members our community of practice on the launch of our province-wide *C. difficile* surveillance system. Ellie will be an invaluable asset to our team.

While we have run into some minor technical delays in the launch of this provincial surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile*, these delays are expected to be resolved shortly. Signed Participation Agreements have been received from every Health Authority, Providence Health, as well as the affiliated hospitals of St. Joseph's and Wrinch Memorial.

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. Epidemiologists will then compile these CDAD rates and trends that will be shared with the submitters. Provincial aggregate rates will be made publicly available. 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.

2009 PICNet Conference: Hold the Dates!

This year's 3rd Annual PICNet Education Conference, will be held April 2nd and 3rd at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, BC. Please put those dates aside and join us! This conference has been growing in scope and attendance every year, and our Planning Committee is currently working hard to develop two days' worth of relevant, interesting, and thought-provoking content.

Once again, we are very pleased to be able to offer this educational opportunity with no registration fee attached. By keeping costs for delegates to a minimum, we hope to enable the participation of infection prevention and control, public health, and occupational health care professionals from across the province. While there is no registration fee for this conference, delegates will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Registration will commence in January, 2009.

Education Resource Fund:

Recognizing that travel and accommodation can be prohibitively expensive, especially in tight budgetary times, PICNet would like to remind you of its “Education Resource Fund.” This educational grant fund invites applications from within PICNet’s Community of Practice, consisting of all health care professionals in the province involved in infection prevention and control. Each year, PICNet is able to offer 10 awards of up to \$2000.00 to successful applicants, to support their attending a conference, meeting, or other educational activity. The deadline for this year’s applications has been moved ahead by one month to February 28th, 2009. This is to accommodate applicants who may wish to apply for funding to attend the PICNet conference. For the application form, please visit the following link:

http://picnetbc.ca//sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Forms/Application_for_Education_Resource_Fund_Grants_Final.doc

Needs Assessment for Infection Prevention & Control in Long Term Care

This PICNet Working Group will be conducting a needs assessment for infection prevention and control resources in long term care settings. The group met in late October, and discussed and agreed upon roles and responsibilities of the different members of the group, as well as timelines for this work. The next meeting will be held in mid-December – date to be determined.

The purpose of this group’s work is to enable the identification of gaps in resources for infection control in these settings, in order for Health Authorities to be able to develop solid business cases towards attaining increased resources. Over the next two months, the group will work on compiling the list of facilities that will be approached as part of this survey, as well as finalizing the actual survey and ensuring that it is properly validated. This group is hoping to send out the survey in January 2009.

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

PICNet’s Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines have now gone through their final review processes, and will shortly be made available to the provincial infection prevention and control Community of Practice through the PICNet web site. We would like to thank and congratulate everyone who has been involved in the development of these guidelines!

Home and Community Health Care Guidelines – An Update

Final editing is currently taking place on the first draft of PICNet’s Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Home and Community Health Care Settings. Over the month of November, this document has been circulated for review and feedback by various Home and Community Health experts, and will shortly be distributed for further review to the PICNet Community of Practice.

Webber Training Debrief

Since February 2006 PICNet has purchased and hosted educational classes offered by Webber Training. These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

The topics and faculty of the **2009 Teleclass Education** lecture series are available as well on the Webber Training web site, with more than 40 topics in the series so far. The link for the Teleclass Series schedule is: <http://webbertraining.com/schedule1.php>

There are two Webber teleclasses scheduled for December.

Webber Training December 2008 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
December 11, 2008	Halting the Spread of MRSA Between Acute Care and Long Term Care Facilities	Dr. Susan Huang, Brigham & Women’s Hospital
December 18, 2008	The Who, When, and Why of Isolation Precautions	Dr. Michelle Alfa, Diagnostic Services Manitoba

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