



Infection Prevention and Control Needs Assessment in Long Term Care

Plans are being made for the first meeting of the new PICNet Working Group that will focus on conducting a needs assessment for infection prevention and control in long term care settings. This first meeting will take place from 2:30-4:30 on the 24th of September. We are looking forward to convening this enthusiastic and important team.

Call-out for Working Group members: Gastro-Intestinal (GI) Outbreak Guidelines Working Group

PICNet would like to invite you to participate in an upcoming Working Group that will be working towards the development of a provincial reference manual for GI Outbreaks. This document will contain Public Health, Infection Prevention and Control, and Laboratory components, and will cover acute care, long term care, and daycare in its scope.

If you would like to participate, or have further questions, please contact the PICNet Management Office at picnet@phsa.ca

2009 PICNet Conference Planning Committee: Second Call-Out

It is time to start planning for our third Educational Conference!

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

Participation Agreements have now been sent to all Health Authorities for consideration, with signed agreements having already been returned to PICNet from the Provincial Health Services

Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Interior Health. With these agreements in hand, PICNet is ready to begin the roll-out of our provincial surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile*.

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.

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

PICNet’s Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines Working Group met by teleconference on August 21, and reviewed the latest round of changes to the document, which is now very close to completion. Final adjustments in formatting and style are being made before this document goes to the PICNet Advisory Committee for their review and approval later this month. Once approved by the Advisory Committee, the document will go through the Communicable Disease (CD) Policy Committee for inclusion in the Provincial CD Policy Manual.

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/schedule1.php>). These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

September is a particularly busy month for Webber Teleclasses, with no fewer than six teleclasses being offered. There are some very interesting and relevant topics on the agenda for this month!

Webber Training September 2008 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
September 4, 2008	We Get the Infection Control We Deserve	Gary Phillips, NorthWest Training & Development

September 11, 2008	LTC – Surveillance in Long Term Care	Mary Andrus, CDC
September 16, 2008	(British Teleclass) <i>Clostridium difficile</i> – Prevention is Better Than Cure	Prof. Mark Wilcox, Leeds University
September 22, 2008	(Free British Teleclass) Evidence for Preventing Infection	Prof. Stephan Harbath, Geneva University Hospitals
September 23, 2008	(Free Teleclass) Voices of CHICA (Part 2)	CHICA-Canada Board Members and Guests
September 25, 2008	Nosocomial Transmission of Scabies	Helena Maltezou, Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Greece

Upcoming PICNet Committee and Working Group Meetings

Group or Committee	Date and Time
Communications Leadership Group	1:00-2:30 pm, September 22, 2008
PICNet Advisory Committee	12:00-2:30 pm, September 29, 2008
Long Term Care Needs Assessment Working Group	2:30-4:30 p.m., September 24, 2008
Home and Community Health Care Guidelines Working Group	To Be Announced
Project Priority and Planning Committee	To Be Announced

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