



PICNet at the 2009 Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada (CHICA) Conference

Members of PICNet’s Management Office represented PICNet at this year’s Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada conference held in St. John’s, Newfoundland in early May. PICNet hosted a booth in the Exhibition Hall, sharing knowledge, information and experience with professionals working in the field of infection prevention and control across Canada. We were also pleased to present a poster at the conference on the development of the new provincial *Clostridium difficile* infection surveillance program for BC.

As well, PICNet was proud to sponsor the second meeting of the “Network of Networks” – a forum for provincial-level leaders in infection prevention and control to informally meet and discuss common challenges and solutions, and to build important information-sharing networks with national colleagues. This group has agreed to move forward with becoming an official CHICA-Canada Interest Group. Bruce Gamage and Patsy Rawding (from Nova Scotia) will Co-chair this group for the next two years.

PICNet’s Surgical Site Infection Prevention E-module

PICNet has been working closely with content experts, and a technical design team from Vancouver Coastal Health’s Educational Technologies Department towards the development of an on-line surgical site infection prevention educational module. The fourth and final chapter has now been submitted for technical design, and we will be proceeding shortly with beta-testing of the module. Our goal is to be able to release the module this summer. This PICNet e-module will be freely accessible through our website at www.picnetbc.ca.

Updates on the Roll-Out of Provincial Surveillance Program for *Clostridium difficile* Infections (CDI)

The PICNet team has now finalized data quality assurance processes for the new provincial voluntary CDI surveillance system within two Health Authorities (HA), and is nearing completion of this process in a third HA. Through this system, each HA is able to submit anonymized data from both regional and facility levels to a provincial data repository using a secure web portal.

With quality assurance processes in place, PICNet will begin to receive data from the HAs. Epidemiologists will then compile these CDI rates and trends that will be shared with the submitters. PICNet hopes to have preliminary results available in the summer of 2009. 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 Infection Control Guidelines: Providing Health Care to the Client Living in the Community

The final technical edit of these guidelines has been completed, and they are within a couple of weeks of being released. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all members of this PICNet Working Group, and to everyone else who has taken the time to provide feedback and input on this document.

Needs Assessment for Infection Prevention & Control in Long Term Care

An on-line survey tool has now been developed to assist this PICNet Working Group in collecting the data needed to perform a province-wide needs assessment for infection prevention and control resources in long term care settings. This survey will enable the groups to identify 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. This Working Group hopes to send the survey out to selected facilities within each Health Authority throughout the month of June.

Gastrointestinal Infections (GI) Outbreak Guidelines Working Group

This Working Group continues its work towards developing a set of provincial guidelines for GI Outbreaks in BC. An information specialist has now been contracted to begin a literature review focused on some identified key questions. These guidelines are intended to provide guidance to all health care settings when developing or updating policies and processes that pertain to the prevention, surveillance for, identification and control of gastrointestinal outbreaks.

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 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/schedulep1.php>

Below are the Webber teleclasses scheduled for June 2009.

Webber Training June 2009 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
June 4, 2009	Portal of Entry: The Missing Link	Jim Gauthier, Providence Continuing Care, Kingston
June 16, 2009	(British Teleclass) Gleaning Gold from Surveillance Data	Andrew Pearson, Health Protection Agency
June 18, 2009	The Pregnant Health-Care Worker and Infection Risk	Prof. Sotiris Tsiodras, University of Athens Medical School, Greece
June 24, 2009	(South Pacific Teleclass) Tea Tree Oil and Staphylococcal Sepsis	Prof. Tom Riley, University of Western Australia

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