



PICNet’s Provincial Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines: Now Available!

PICNet’s Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Guidelines are now available on PICNet’s Web site, at www.picnetbc.ca. These guidelines present background and current information about Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) and other AROs in British Columbia. The guidelines provide general infection prevention and control principles for dealing with AROs, before focusing specifically on acute care, residential care, and home and community care settings. The release of these guidelines represents the culmination of a great deal of work and dedication from our ARO Working Group, PICNet’s Advisory Committee, and the entire PICNet team.

A particular thank-you to the ARO Working Group members and writers, including Joanne Archer, Dr. Ian Connell, Jim Curtin, Fern Davey, Dr. David Forrest, Shelley Franklin, Bruce Gamage, Deanna Hembroff, Dr. Linda Hoang, Dr. Pamela Kibsey, Linda Kingsbury, Tracy Lanier, Sarah Pugh, Jackie Ratzlaff, Coleen Reiswig, Dr. Fred Roberts, Phyllis Stoffman and Joanne Tench.

Registration Open for 2009 PICNet Conference “We’re In This Together”

Registration is now open through PICNet’s Web site, <http://www.picnetbc.ca> for this year’s 3rd Annual PICNet Educational Conference, to be held April 2nd and 3rd at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, BC. The theme of this year’s conference is “We’re In This Together” with topics to include: outbreaks, health care worker vaccination, infection control in construction and design, food safety in health care, accreditation, environmental cleaning, and more.

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.

You can Apply for our Education Resource Fund:

Recognizing that travel and accommodation can be prohibitively expensive, especially in these 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

Gastrointestinal Illness (GI) Outbreak Guidelines Working Group

The GI Guidelines Working Group has now met to determine their scope, objectives and goals in developing a set of guidelines for the province. These guidelines will 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.

This group recognizes that effective outbreak management requires a collaborative effort between Public Health, Infection Prevention and Control, Laboratory Services, Workplace Health and Safety, facility managers and facility staff.

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

Work progresses towards the imminent launch of this voluntary surveillance system that will enable Health Authorities (HA) to submit anonymized data from both regional and facility levels to a provincial data repository using a secure web portal. The system went “live” in December and is now undergoing testing in the web environment to ensure data is being transferred successfully. Once the testing is completed PICNet will begin to receive data from the HAs. Epidemiologists will then compile these CDAD rates and trends that will be shared with the submitters. PICNet hopes to have preliminary results available in the spring 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.

Needs Assessment for Infection Prevention & Control in Long Term Care

This PICNet Working Group will shortly be launching a Needs Assessment for infection prevention and control resources in long term care settings. 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. The group is currently working 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. The survey will be sent out in early 2009.

Home and Community Health Care Guidelines – An Update

PICNet’s Home and Community Health Care Guidelines are nearing completion. These guidelines focus specifically on the infection prevention and control challenges and practices as they pertain to the Home and Community Health Care setting. This month, a draft of these guidelines will be posted to the PICNet Web site, for a period of review and comment from the wider Community of

Practice. We invite you to have a look through these guidelines once they are posted, and to submit your feedback for Working Group consideration.

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>

There are three Webber teleclasses scheduled for January.

Webber Training January 2009 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
January 8, 2009	Hand Hygiene, A Work in Progress... What's Next	Dr. Hugo Sax, University of Geneva Hospitals, Switzerland
January 12, 2009	(British Teleclass) Clostridium difficile – Prevention is Better Than Cure	Prof. Mark Wilcox, Leeds University
January 29, 2009	Infection-Free Behaviour – A New Paradigm	Dr. Kristine Gebbie, Hunter College

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