

# PICNet

## Provincial Infection Control Network – BC “Debugging Healthcare Together!”

### Call-out for Home Healthcare Guidelines Working Group Members

PICNet is issuing a call-out for healthcare professionals in our Community of Practice interested in contributing to the development of provincial guidelines for infection prevention and control in Home Healthcare settings.

Similar to the PICNet guidelines developed for Respiratory Illness Outbreaks and Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (currently being written), the Home Healthcare guidelines will be designed using a collaborative process that engages expertise from across regions, disciplines and facilities. If you are interested in participating on this working group, or looking for further details, please contact Bruce Gamage or Sarah Pugh at [picnet@bccdc.ca](mailto:picnet@bccdc.ca).

### First Call for PICNet Project Proposals

The projects PICNet undertakes each year are identified by you – our Community of Practice. Every year, PICNet calls for infection prevention and control project proposals using our proposal template which can be found on our web site (PICNet Project Proposal form: <http://picnetbc.ca/page193.htm>).

If you, your facility, or your organization has a project in mind that you think fits within PICNet's mandate (visit <http://www.picnetbc.ca> for more information), we encourage you to send us your proposal. PICNet's Project Priority and Planning Committee carefully reviews and triages all project proposals before making recommendations to the Steering Committee about priorities for the coming 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The deadline for project proposal submissions is January 15, 2008, so we would encourage you to start thinking now about what kinds of projects you would like PICNet to undertake in 2008-2009, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the PICNet Management Office at [picnet@bccdc.ca](mailto:picnet@bccdc.ca)

### Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines Development: An Update

Through the hard work of PICNet's Antibiotic Resistant Organism working group, we are drawing ever closer to the completion of PICNet provincial ARO guidelines. On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the

working group met face-to-face for an all-day meeting in Vancouver to review and revise the first draft of the guidelines. This important meeting combed carefully through the draft document, bringing together all the work of the sub-groups to date and revisiting controversial issues.

Consultant Phyllis Stoffman will take the feedback and revisions from the group and re-work them over the month of December into the second draft. Thank-you to all who participated in the all-day meeting – it was a pivotal and valuable step towards the completion of this project.

### **International Commission on Occupational Health Workshop Publication**

PICNet was very proud to sponsor an all-day pre-conference workshop at the end of October at the International Commission on Occupational Health Conference in Vancouver. Over 40 people from countries across the world participated in the workshop, designed to share strategies around occupational health for health care workers in low resource settings and developing countries

Work continues on the development of a publication derived from the material and topics developed in this workshop. This will be compiled over the coming months by workshop participants themselves, and will be published by the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH), CDC Atlanta. Group leads are currently drafting chapter outlines, which will be reviewed and synthesized by the Workshop Organizing Committee before the draft chapters are written and compiled for mid-January, 2008.

### **PICNet 2008 Conference: “*Breaking Down the Silos*” between Occupational Health, Infection Control and Public Health**

The Planning Committee for PICNet’s 2008 Educational Conference met again by teleconference in November to discuss and review goals and objectives as well as a draft agenda for the two days of the conference, under the theme “*Breaking Down the Silos*” between Occupational Health, Infection Control and Public Health.

PICNet’s conference goal is “to strengthen PICNet’s Community of Practice by bringing together professionals working in Occupational Health, Infection Control and Public Health to identify common issues, share knowledge and develop solutions for healthcare-associated infection prevention and control in British Columbia.”

Finalized dates and venue will be announced in the near future. Follow the PICNet web site at [www.picnetbc.ca](http://www.picnetbc.ca) for further details.

### ***Clostridium difficile* Surveillance Working Group Update**

In late November, the *Clostridium difficile* working group decided to revise its approach for the collection of *Clostridium difficile* provincial data. Rather than proceed with the development and approval of a Privacy Impact Assessment and the subsequent Information Sharing Agreements that would be required for the collection of identifiable data from across Health Authorities, the group reassessed the need for data attached to personal identifiers, and decided instead to adopt an approach similar to that used by the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP)

nationally. CNISP collects relevant data anonymously, using facility codes and patient codes, obviating the need for personal identifiers. A similar approach will allow PICNet to collate a useful and relevant provincial snapshot of *Clostridium difficile*, while simultaneously protecting Health Authority, facility, and individual patient privacy and confidentiality.

Next steps for this group will be moving ahead with the technical plans and database development to enable such a system, along with the careful development of Memoranda of Understanding between PICNet and all the Health Authorities to ensure that all details of this surveillance project are clear, open, and beneficial to all.

### **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. There are two remaining Webber Training teleclasses in the 2007 season.

### **Webber Training December Schedule**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic of Interest:</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>
<b>December 6, 2007</b>	<b>Infection Control in the Living and the Dead: The Angola Marburg Outbreak</b>	Dr. Adriano Duse, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
<b>December 13, 2007</b>	<b>Water Quality Issues Pertaining to Medical Device Reprocessing</b>	Dr. Michelle Alfa, St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg

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