

PICNet

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

PICNet set to Launch New Web Site February 20th

On February 20th, PICNet will be proudly launching our new web site. With the help and direction of our Communications Leadership Group, PICNet has been working hard to revise, update and improve our web presence. The new site, located at our previous domain name of www.picnetbc.ca, is easily navigable and attractive, and includes new features such as a PICNet Events Schedule, a newsletter archive, and up-to-date information about PICNet’s various projects and working groups. We will also be using the web site to disseminate key documents such as PICNet’s new Respiratory Illness Guidelines, and PICNet’s proposal for the establishment of the Surveillance of Health Care Associated Infection Program for British Columbia (SHAIP-BC).

We hope the web site will be a valuable tool for our entire community of practice, across the continuum of care, and we look forward to suggestions and contributions that will further strengthen and improve its value to you.

Employment Opportunity: Infection Control Consultant with PICNet

PICNet is hiring a full-time Infection Control Consultant, for one fiscal year (April 1-March 31) with an option to renew. This position is up to 1.0 FTE (negotiable) and will be a secondment and/or contract position. Accountable to the PICNet Coordinator, the PICNet Infection Control Consultant will be a member of PICNet’s Management Office, and will have the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Renew, enhance and promote existing partnerships and collaborations across the continuum of care to advance PICNet’s goals and objectives.
2. Participate in the development of specific PICNet management office communication projects. (e.g. website development and maintenance, PICNet newsletter, PICNet marketing materials, etc).
3. Participate as a PICNet collaborative member in surveillance/research projects related to health care associated infections both locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.
4. Coordinate PICNet’s education and training activities.
5. Participate in the development and ongoing maintenance of specific best practice guidelines for the province in collaboration with key stakeholders.
6. Lead the collation, development and maintenance of a clearinghouse on IC practice which serves the entire continuum of care.

7. Support PICNet's Community of Practice through consultation and interpretation of PICNet guidelines and referral to the appropriate individuals on issues related to healthcare associated infections (HAI)
8. Assist PICNet's Emergency Executive Committee, as required.
9. Participate in and oversee the operations of various PICNet committees, as required
10. Represent PICNet on external committees, as required
11. Oversee the work of contractors and/or students working on PICNet projects, as required
12. Support PICNet's Coordinator, as requested.

If you're keen to work in a friendly and rewarding environment where your contribution is appreciated, please forward your resume and covering letter to:

PICNet
655 West 12th Ave., Room 2083
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4R4

Closing Date: February 28, 2007
Start Date: April 1, 2007

Announcing PICNet's 2007 Educational Conference

Mark it on your calendars! The first week of May has been selected for PICNet's two-day 2007 Educational Conference. The Conference planning committee met face-to-face on January 24th, and will soon finalize dates, program and location within the Vancouver area. This conference will combine updates and explorations of PICNet's many exciting projects with interactive educational workshops relating to infection control and prevention in construction, personal protective equipment, provincial surveillance, as well as core competencies, best practices and education and training for those involved in infection control and prevention across the continuum of care. Watch for further details....

Office of the Auditor General's Report on Infection Control and Prevention in British Columbia: soon to be released

The Office of the Auditor General's Report on Infection Control and Prevention in British Columbia is slated for public release likely towards the end of February. In January, PICNet was asked to respond to omissions and inaccuracies in the draft report, and we have also been asked to provide formal comments and feedback. PICNet is currently working to coordinate our response to the report in accordance with our communications plan, and in conjunction with our Steering Committee, our Communications Leadership Group, and the Ministry of Health.

A Reminder to Please Submit All Travel Claims

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, a house-keeping reminder for those working group participants with outstanding travel claims to please submit your claims along with all original receipts to our Management Office by February 20th, 2007. Please contact Sarah Pugh at

sarah.pugh@bccdc or by phone at (604) 660-0296 if you do not already have PICNet's travel claim template. Completed forms and receipts should be mailed to:

Attn: Sarah Pugh
Room 2083
655 W. 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4R4

PICNet's International Project

PICNet would like to thank those who responded to our call-out in last month's newsletter for interest in working on an international infection prevention and control project. There was an enthusiastic response to the call-out, and the group will meet by teleconference for the first time this month to discuss potential projects and to plan next steps.

PICNet's Communications Leadership Group – An Update

It's a busy time for the Communications Leadership Group (CLG), with preparations underway for the launch of the web site and coordination around the release of the Auditor General's report in late February. The CLG met by teleconference on January 10th to review the web site and offer suggestions and feedback for its improvement, as well as to review and develop policy around how the web site will be maintained and updated in a transparent and timely manner. The CLG continues to meet monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for February 14th, 2007.

Needs Assessment Working Group – An Update

PICNet's 2006 "Assessment of Infection Control Activities Across the Province of British Columbia" identified three key priority areas for intervention: surveillance/best practices; staffing; and education and training. Building on the work of a key face-to-face Needs Assessment Working Group meeting in November, PICNet has been developing a follow-up document outlining the requirements for a successful infection prevention and control program, including core elements of the infection control program, core competencies for designated infection control program staff and all health care workers, roles and responsibilities for personnel involved in IPC and staffing ratios and staffing recommendations. This work and next steps will be the focus of the next Needs Assessment Working Group meeting, scheduled for Monday February 12th.

Surgical Site Infections Surveillance – An Update

The Surveillance of Health Care Associated Infection Program for British Columbia (SHAIP-BC) proposal, included in the SSI Surveillance Working Group's Strategic Plan and Options Paper Report, has received positive feedback from the Provincial Medical Services Committee (PMSC). Permission was received from the PMSC to forward the document to the Ministry of Health. We are currently awaiting a response to the proposal.

Respiratory Outbreak Prevention and Control Guidelines – An Update

The Respiratory Illness Working Group has now completed the final edits and formatting for PICNet's new Respiratory Outbreak Prevention and Control Guidelines. In order to obtain feedback from expert groups such as WorkSafe BC and the Provincial Communicable Disease Policy Committee, as well as from the PICNet community of practice across British Columbia, the guidelines will soon be posted on PICNet's web site at www.picnetbc.ca. Congratulations and thank-you to everyone involved in this very successful collaboration!

PICNet's Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Working Group – An Update

PICNet has formed a new working group to revise the current BCCDC Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (ARO) Guidelines. This working group will update the current guidelines and also enhance them to include sections on hemodialysis, occupational health issues and any other areas the working group members deem necessary.

The process will be quite similar to how PICNet managed the Respiratory Outbreak Guidelines and will be supported by a consultant, Phyllis Stoffman, who will gather the necessary background materials and lead the writing of the guidelines.

Over 25 members of the PICNet community of practice have volunteered to participate in this process. The group will have their first meeting on Monday, March 5, 2007.

PICNet's *Clostridium difficile* Surveillance Working Group – An Update

Thanks so much to the members of the PICNet community of practice who have joined this working group. The *C. difficile* surveillance working group was established within PICNet to maintain and update the CDAD surveillance protocol developed by the previous Ad Hoc CDAD working group and to coordinate discussion and consensus on its implementation among the health authorities. This group will also develop a process and data sharing agreements for provincial collection (under the auspices of PICNet) of summary data and reporting of trends over time. The group will meet for the first time on Thursday February 1, 2007.

Webber Training debrief

PICNet is also pleased to offer recordings of individual Webber Training teleclasses for the 2006 season of Webber Training, available for loan through our library. The 2006 schedule, along with the 2007 schedule, is posted on-line at (<http://webbertraining.com/schedule1.php>).

If you are interested in borrowing a recording or becoming a Webber Training participant for the 2007 season, please contact the PICNet management office at picnet@bccdc.ca

The chart below provides an overview of the upcoming teleclasses in the month of February.

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
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February 8, 2007	Influenza – Of Poultry, Pets and People	Dr. Corrie Brown, University of Georgia
February 15, 2007	Fresh Produce and Human Pathogenicity	Dr. Keith Warriner, University of Guelph Department of Food Science
February 21, 2007	Infection Control in the Endoscopy Clinic	Dr. Richard Everts, Nelson Hospital, New Zealand
February 22, 2007	Best Practice for Hospital Construction Management	Andrew Streifel, University of Minnesota

Upcoming PICNet Meetings

Meeting	Date
Communications Leadership Group	February 14
Project Priority and Planning Committee	February 20
2007 Educational Conference Planning Committee	February 9
Needs Assessment Working Group	February 12
CDAD Working Group	February 1
ARO Working Group	March 5
International Project	February 9

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