



WINTER 2010	
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Call for interest...formation of a CIC Study Group

You have downloaded the "Candidates Handbook" at the CBIC Website: www.cbic.org

- you **qualify** to challenge the exam...
- you have reviewed the recommended resources...
- now you just need one final review before writing the exam?

Then you should be in our 2010 CIC Study Group! Contact NEOICN at NEOICN@hrsrb.on.ca with "CIC Study Group" in the subject field. A planning meeting will be scheduled in February by videoconference/teleconference with group meetings to follow over the next several weeks, bringing candidates together to assist one another to prepare to challenge the exam. Please note * NEOICN's CIC Study Group is *not* a course, but rather it is a facilitated study support opportunity.

**Just Clean Your Hands
Adapted for Use in Long-Term Care!**



The Just Clean Your Hands program created for acute care settings has now been designed especially for Long Term Care! This is exciting news as throughout the development and roll-out of JCYH- Acute Care there were many requests from LTC about implementing the program in their homes.

In the fall of 2008 the MOHLTC began looking at how this program could be adapted for LTC settings and soon development was in progress including focus groups with stakeholders from LTC and the establishment of a task force to provide expert advice for creation of the program components.

Early in the new year, each Long Term Care home will receive a letter announcing the program and a JCYH-LTC Training Kit. Following this, the program will rollout across the province between January and April 2010 with corresponding training sessions offered by the Regional Infection Control Networks. For more information visit the RICN website www.ricn.on.ca or call your local RICN office for training details.

RICN Non-Acute Care ICP Training Program Achievement!

The RICN Non-Acute Care Infection Control Professional (ICP) Training Program Working Group is pleased to announce that the RICN Non Acute Care ICP Training Program has now received CHICA-Canada endorsement. This means that we can use the official CHICA-Canada logo and the designation "Endorsed by CHICA-Canada" on our course materials and advertising.

This endorsement means that this program meets the stringent criteria established by CHICA-Canada and will be listed on the CHICA-Canada website alongside other established training programs. Our course is unique in that it has been designed specifically for ICPs in non acute care settings in Ontario such as, long term care, primary healthcare, home healthcare and public health. The program consists of 12 modules that are delivered over a 12 month period. It is intended for the ICP who is new in their role and/or has no other formal infection prevention and control training. If you are interested in this program and would like more detail contact your local RICN office or visit our website!

One More Reason to Become a CHICA-Canada Member!

<http://www.chica.org/AuditToolkit/toolkithome.html>

Frequently in the *Focus On* news we promote the many benefits of membership with CHICA-Canada. This month, there is another very good reason to join Canada's only national, professional association for Infection Prevention and Control.

CHICA-Canada is pleased to announce the launch of 10 Infection Prevention and Control audit tools for CHICA-Canada members as part of National Infection Control Week. These tools are the first of a series that will be released over the next few months. We hope that these audit tools will support you to measure your success at moving best evidence into best practices in your organizations. The full audit toolkit will be available at the June 2010 conference.

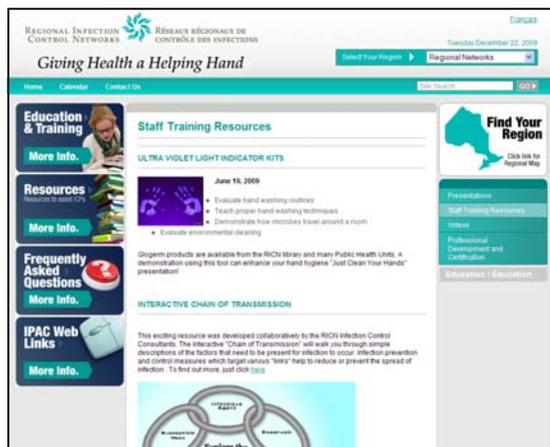
The CHICA-Canada audit tools in this toolkit include:

- hand hygiene (readiness and practice)
- use of additional precautions (AP)
- use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- cleaning and disinfection of client/patient/resident equipment
- healthcare environment cleaning (including ward/department kitchens)
- hemodialysis practices, equipment, facility and management of AROs
- prehospital/emergency services
- outbreak management
- disinfection and sterilization in the doctor's office
- operating room infection prevention and control practices, asepsis and surgical scrub



The data derived from audits can be used to direct the infection prevention and control program's annual goals and objectives. It also will assist in meeting the needs of the health care setting in relation to infection prevention and control standards and safer health care practices. CHICA Members now have access —just sign on with your member's username and password!

Featuring....New Resources on the RICN Website!



If you haven't checked out the RICN website recently we invite you to visit and discover "what's new". Over the past few months there have been new features added that we think you might find useful!

- The Interactive Chain of Transmission
- Workshop Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- The Infection Prevention and Control Pocket Guide for Acute Care Settings
- Practical Web Links
- Educational Event Calendar
- Resources that are offered in both French and English
- About the RICN and much more....

In addition to searching the Provincial RICN website browse the regional sites by clicking on the drop down box that says "Select your Region". On the Regional Web Pages you can find local news and library listings as well as a variety of interesting tools and unique resources. To find the website search "RICN Ontario" OR connect to www.ricn.on.ca

If you find out that a patient was ARO positive after their discharge, what do *you* do?

A survey was sent to all hospital ICPs in Northeastern Ontario to inquire about current practice regarding patient notification of positive ARO status. We wanted to know if, for example, a patient's ARO positive screening was known after the patient had been discharged, did they notify the patient directly, inform the family physician or was there another means to alert the patient?

We received the following replies:

- The patient is notified by the treating physician- the patient is flagged in the system.
- This facility does not notify discharged patients of their positive status nor is a letter sent to the family physician as the family physician receives all lab results and should address this with his patient. Where a patient does not have a family physician, they attempt to follow up through a clinic or practitioner clinic where possible. Results are faxed over.
- Family physicians are notified via a standard letter. For those patients without a family physician, the patient is not informed of his positive status. This site is looking at exploring the role of future ER Nurse Practitioners to inform/follow up with such cases.
- The patient's physician contacts the patient- no other follow up if there is no family physician.
- The family physician is called and results faxed. If no family physician, a hospitalist or ED physician is contacted to follow-up with the patient (small rural centre). Patients are flagged in the system.

Essentially, in most cases, the patient without a family physician or one without medical supervision is not likely to be aware of his/her status. Unfortunately, this leads to disgruntled patients upon their next admission to hospital as they have most likely been flagged and are isolated and screened on admission.

IPAC educational resources on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Blogs. Most employers continue to block access.

So called "Web 2.0" tools can provide a rich resource for video clips, animations and information about most any topic on earth! The animation at the link below was originally shared by way of Facebook. The clip provides an entertaining and informative demonstration regarding vaccination and herd immunity, and is part of a growing bank of valid educational material available on the web. http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/About_Immunisation/Science/Herd_immunity_-_animation Unfortunately, workplace abuse of social networking sites continues to be a concern to some. The flip-side of potential time-wasting while at work is easy posting, referencing and access to a multitude of resources and platforms for collaboration, consultation and communication.



CIC Success!

Congratulations to Anne Sutcliffe on her successful challenge of the Certification in Infection Control and Epidemiology examination, on a Friday the 13th, no less! Luck had nothing to do with it, Anne! Anne practices infection prevention at the Sudbury Regional Hospital and was an active member of NEOICN's most recent CIC Study Group.

Making good use of the Certification Study Guide provided by NEOICN and studying independently Sherri Cleaves of Algoma Public Health has also recently become certified. Congratulations Sherri! Well done!

A mere 5 years ago, only 8 certified ICPs called Northeastern Ontario home...now there are 19 in the region who are certified to list "CIC" among their credentials! Quite a formidable group! Only 70% of those who challenge the CBIC examination actually qualify...thus, carrying the CIC designation is truly a testament to the knowledge and preparation of those who have been successful.



It's a different flu year for sure! NACI Statement on the Seasonal Vaccine 2009-2010

If you have not yet seen the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Statement on Seasonal Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine for 2009-2010, this link will transport you to this informative volume of the CCDR... <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/09vol35/acs-dcc-6/index-eng.php>

Upcoming Events

LEARN AT LUNCH (Videoconference) 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Jan 21 - Positive Deviance - Staff Driven Cultural Transformation
Speaker: Zahir Hirji

Feb 25 - Racing the Runs - Norovirus Takes Off
Speaker: Colette Ouellet

Mar 4 - Positive Deviance Part Deux: Capitalizing on your Secret Change Agents
Speaker: Ene Querney

Mar 18 - Tour of the Microbiology Lab
Speaker: George Subocz

For more information on the Learn at Lunch Sessions, please send an email to neoicn@hrsrh.on.ca

CONFERENCES

May 6 - 8, 2010 : AMMI Canada - CACMID Annual Conference, Edmonton, AB
http://www.ammi.ca/annual_conference/index.php

May 29 - Jun 3, 2010: CHICA Canada's 2010 National Education Conference, Vancouver, BC
http://www.chica.org/conf_registration.html

WEBBER TELECLASSES (www.webbertraining.com)

Jan 21 - The Role of Environmental Surfaces in Healthcare Infections

Jan 28 - Improved Oral Hygiene in Intubated Patients to Prevent Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia

Feb 9 - Post-Discharge Surveillance Made Easy (*British Teleclass*)

Feb 11 - International Trends in Sharpes Injury Prevention

Feb 17 - Influenza H1N1 - The Southern Hemisphere Experience (*South Pacific Teleclass*)

Feb 18 - Stopping URIs and Flu in the Family: The Stuffy Trial

Feb 25 - Influenza in the Hospital - Who Gets It From Whom

For more educational events, please visit the RICN website's calendar of events.

www.ricn.on.ca

This newsletter was prepared by a collaborative effort of the RICNs and this Network.

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Northeastern Ontario

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*