

VOL. 4 SPRING 2009

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### CHICA- Southwestern Ontario...

is a chapter of the greater CHICA—Canada with geographic boundaries that spread to 3 LHIN regions in southern Ontario. CHICA-SWO (formerly called SOPIC) was started in 1981 as a Network of four hospitals. (CHICA-SWO president Laura Fraser in photo above). Membership has grown to 145 members and includes infection control professionals from

- acute care
- long term care
- public health and
- community partners.

CHICA-SWO has five meetings a year with opportunities to network with other ICPs and receive education on various infections prevention and control topics. This year we have partnered with the Regional Infection Control Network to sponsor a Conference in June. Have a question? Visit our new chat area and get some help.

For information on meeting dates, the conference or our new on line chat area go to

<http://www.chica.org/SOPIC/index.html>.



## Getting to know CHICA-Canada!

Professional networks present themselves in a variety of structures; composition and governance all of which provide a range of valuable benefits to their members. There are many professional networks that we can join for Infection Prevention and Control by region and province but only one national network that supports IPAC from coast to coast and that exceptional network is **CHICA-CANADA**.



**CHICA-CANADA** (Community And Hospital Infection Control Association-Canada) is a multidisciplinary, professional organization for those engaged in the prevention and control of infections. CHICA was incorporated under the Canadian Corporation Act in 1976. It is a registered non-profit organization and has over 1225 members across Canada and internationally.

Being a member of **CHICA-CANADA** is essential for IPAC professional as it is the primary, national source of communication and education for those involved in infection control activities. Its goal is to prevent infections and as a result improve patient care and staff health by:

- coordinating effective communication among all disciplines
- supporting and developing effective and rational infection control practices
- standardizing infection control practices
- promoting research in areas related to infection control
- promoting and facilitating infection control education

**CHICA-CANADA** is an organization that involves ICP's in all healthcare settings. In 1985 it was recognized that Infection Control Professionals contribute their expertise to the community in many ways so **CHICA** expanded its mandate to include the community to reflect the responsibility of infection control beyond hospitals.

There are many benefits to membership apart from the support and education received through local chapters and national interest groups; such as, access to on-line resources, a subscription to the *Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC)* and an individual copy of the Annual **CHICA** Member's Directory and Source Guide.

To learn more about CHICA visit [www.chica.org](http://www.chica.org)  
For membership information click on the "About Us" icon

## 12 Steps to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance in Long-Term Care

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed the *12 Steps to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance Among Long-Term Care Residents* as part of its campaign to prevent antimicrobial resistance. The "12 Steps" include:

1. Vaccination
2. Reducing risk factors that lead to infection
3. Getting the unnecessary devices out
4. Using established criteria for diagnosis of infection
5. Using local resources
6. Knowing when to say "no" to antibiotics
7. Treating infection, not colonization or contamination
8. Stopping antimicrobial treatment
9. Isolating the pathogen
10. Breaking the chain of transmission
11. Performing hand hygiene
12. Identify residents with multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO)

One of the more difficult guidelines to satisfy is reducing inappropriate use of antibiotics (#6). The CDC recommends reducing empiric prescribing and establishing a system to monitor antibiotic use to assist practitioners in saying "no".

To achieve this, Infection Preventionist (ICP), Martha Harris, suggests the use of an antibiogram. An antibiogram is a chart showing the most common bacterial isolates from your facility as well as the percentage of the isolates susceptible or resistant to a range of antibiotics tested. This will assist facilities in the following ways:

- increase the accuracy of empiric therapy
- reduce the use of inappropriate antibiotics
- identify MDRO trends
- improve resident outcomes

To obtain more information about preventing anti-microbial resistance in your healthcare setting, contact **the Erie St Clair Infection Control Network**.

### Reference:

*Infection Connection*. 2008. *Antibiograms Effective in LTCF MDRO Assessment*. Summer 2008, pages 6-9.



## Ask the Expert: Dr. Corinna Quan, Infectious Diseases

**Q: How can Health-Care Personnel (HCP) be protected from acquiring HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV) in the work place?**

**A:** Routine practices remain the primary strategy for reducing occupational exposures. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is the second line of defense. Under-reporting of exposures is a major problem. HCP should be educated to report occupational exposures immediately since PEP is most likely to be effective if administered as soon as possible.

**Hepatitis B:** The risk of HBV infection is related to the degree of contact with blood in the work place and to the Hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg) status of the source person. HCP who perform tasks involving contact with blood, body fluids or sharps should be vaccinated against HBV. When indicated, PEP for HBV includes hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) 0.06 ml/kg intramuscularly and/or HBV vaccine.

**HIV:** The risk of HIV transmission after percutaneous exposure to HIV-infected blood is about 0.3%. A drug regimen of HIV PEP must balance the risk for infection against the potential toxicities of the agent(s) used. The most common PEP regimen currently used is Combivir 1 tab PO BID (ZDV + 3TC) for the two-drug regimen, and Combivir 1 tab PO BID and Kaletra 2 tab PO BID for the three-drug regimen.

**Hepatitis C:** The average incidence of anti-HCV seroconversion after percutaneous exposure from a HCV-positive source is 1.8%. No clinical trials have been conducted to assess post-exposure use of antiviral agents to prevent HCV infection. HCV serology should be done at baseline and repeated at 4-6 months. Recent studies have suggested that a substantial fraction of HCV-infected individuals spontaneously clear their infections without any interventions.

Read the complete text of Dr. Quan's article at :

[http://ricn.on.ca/files/PEP20091\\_45.doc](http://ricn.on.ca/files/PEP20091_45.doc)

*All exposures to sharps and needles must be taken seriously and require diligent assessment by a qualified practitioner.*



# CSA Conference



On April 8, 2009, the ESCICN held a conference at the Hilton in Windsor. Gordon Burill, P. Eng., (left) SASHE, Fredericton, NB and chair of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Technical Subcommittee on Infection Control during Construction, Renovation and Maintenance in Health Care Facilities led a thought provoking education day on the

CSA standards of infection control during construction, renovation or maintenance in health care facilities.



Participants learned the importance of protecting patients/residents and staff and learned to apply the matrix to determine safety actions. For information about the CSA standard contact the ESCICN office.



## Congratulations

### Karen Padbury, RN CIC

The Erie St Clair Infection Control Network would like to congratulate, Karen Padbury for obtaining her CIC (Certification in Infection Control and Epidemiology). Karen Padbury works at Windsor Regional Hospital. Congratulations Karen on obtaining this honour!



# Hand Hygiene Campaign Continues into Windsor-Essex

The Long Term Care Homes, Public Health and the Erie St Clair Infection Control Network continued the hand hygiene campaign into Windsor-Essex. 15 homes participated. As people entered into the long term care home, one member of the team engaged that person on the importance of hand



hygiene. Visitors, volunteers and staff were asked to sign a paper hand committing themselves to performing hand hygiene when they entered

the home. The hands were placed on a banner and will remain in the home for a few weeks as a reminder of that commitment.



The message is a very simple one "just clean your hands." For information about this campaign contact the Erie St Clair Infection Control Network.

# What's Happening in Erie St. Clair

## Education Conference

Disinfection & Sterilization  
of Medical Devices  
for Long Term Care and Clinics



Thursday, April 23rd, 2009  
9 AM—3:30 PM  
Retro Suites Hotel  
2 King St. West, Chatham, ON  
To Register contact the Erie St Clair  
Infection Control Network

**Webber Teleclass Schedule 1: 30—2:30 pm**  
**April 29** *Clostridium difficile in the Southern Hemisphere*  
 Speaker Dr. David hammer, Canterbury District  
 Health Laboratories  
**April 30** *Finding the Gaps: HAI Surveillance in British  
 Columbia* Speaker: Bruce Gamage, British Columbia  
 Provincial Infection Control network  
**May 19** *Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Vaccination*  
 Speaker: Dr. Tito Lopes, British Gynaecological Soci-  
 ety  
**May 21** *The Pregnant Health-Care Worker and Infection  
 Risk* Speaker: Prof. Sotiris Tsiodras, University of Ath-  
 ens Medical School  
**May 29** *SSIs A 2009 Update* Speaker: Loretta Litz Fau-  
 erback, Shands Hospital, University of Florida  
**Jun 4** *Portal of Entry: The Missing Link* Speaker: Jim  
 Gauthier, Providence Continuing Care, Kingston



May 9– 14  
CHICA Conference  
St John's,  
Newfoundland Labrador



CHICA-Southwestern Ontario  
and the  
Regional Infection Control Networks  
invite you to attend an  
Infection Prevention & Control Conference  
with

Francois Lagarde, M.A.  
Communication

Marina Salvadori, MD  
MRSA and CA-MRSA What's the Difference?

J. Scott Weese, DVM  
Pet Visitation

Henrietta Vanhulle, RN  
Sharp Safety

Friday, June 5th 2009  
at the  
Four Points by Sheraton, London, ON  
For a registration form go to  
<http://www.chica.org/SOPIC/09flyer.pdf> or contact  
the Erie St Clair Infection Control Network  
519 948-7000 or toll free 1 866 924-7426

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

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Erie St. Clair