

PICNet

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

PICNet would like to hear from you!

As well as providing updates on PICNet’s various working groups and activities, this newsletter is *your* forum to address issues of concern or to share infection prevention and control related news from your region. Increasingly, PICNet would like to use this newsletter as a meaningful tool to network individuals and regions across the continuum of care in BC, and to enable you to share with each other the challenges you face and the solutions you identify. To this end, if you have a news item or topic of interest that you would like to share with PICNet’s community of practice, please contact us at picnet@bccdc.ca. Submissions will be vetted and approved by the Communications Leadership Group prior to publication.

PICNet’s Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Working Group – call for volunteers

In January 2007, PICNet is forming 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 who will gather the necessary background materials and lead the writing of the guidelines.

Any individuals who are interested in participating on this working group are asked to please send their name into PICNet at: picnet@bccdc.ca by January 19, 2007.

PICNet’s *Clostridium difficile* Surveillance Working Group – call for volunteers

In June of 2006, the PICNet *Ad Hoc Clostridium difficile* Associated Diarrhea (CDAD) working group produced a protocol for the surveillance of CDAD in acute care facilities in BC. The aim of this protocol was to form the basis for consistent surveillance for this important health event in BC. Following completion of the protocol the group was dissolved. Since that time the protocol has been has been partially or fully implemented in several facilities in Health Authorities in BC.

A new working group is being established within PICNet to maintain and update the protocol and to coordinate discussion and consensus on 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.

PICNet is looking for volunteers to participate on this new CDAD surveillance working group. If you are interested please forward your name and e-mail address to the PICNet Management Office at (picnet@bccdc.ca) by January 19, 2007. Please identify as well if you are willing to lead the working group.

Join PICNet's international project

Several PICNet members have recently expressed interest in working together on a small-scale international project that would contribute to infection control improvement in an international context, and PICNet's Steering Committee has now given approval for moving forward with such a project. By its very nature as a network and collaborative, PICNet has the capacity to tap into a great deal of resources, interest and expertise and to pull together a very effective project.

If you are interested in being involved in the formulation and implementation of this project, please contact the PICNet Management Office at picnet@bccdc.ca by Friday, January 19.

Seasonal Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI) Outbreak Prevention and Control Guidelines

The FRI working group's Outbreak Prevention and Control guidelines are nearing completion. During a half-day working group meeting in late November, key decisions were made around final changes and revisions to the document. Following this meeting, FRI Working Group lead Valerie Schall presented the hard work of the group to PICNet's Steering Committee on December 5th.

Revisions have been made throughout December, and the document has been reviewed by the Steering Committee. Next steps will be to send the document to the PICNet community of practice, WorkSafe BC, and the Communicable Disease Policy Committee for final comments.

Surgical Site Infections Surveillance Working Group

The Options Paper for a provincial SSI surveillance system is finalized. Co-chairs Dr. Fred Roberts and Felicia Laing presented the working group's recommendations to the Steering Committee on Dec 5 and received its endorsement. Next steps include a presentation to the Provincial Medical Services Committee to gain interest and approval from the Health Authorities.

Needs Assessment Working Group

Phase II work is well underway for the Needs Assessment Working Group. A consultant working on behalf of the group is developing a planning document for Health Authorities to use to guide them on infection control resources. This document will define the roles and responsibilities of key

infection control team members and their core competencies. As well, key educational/training opportunities available to meet those core competencies will be highlighted. A draft of this document will be reviewed by the working group early in the new year and will be available for all PICNet stakeholders to review at the next Stakeholder Summit in April 2007.

Communications Leadership Group

The Communications Leadership Group (CLG) meets monthly to address communication priorities for PICNet. Currently, the CLG is working closely with the PICNet Management Office around the redesign of PICNet's web site and the development of effective policies and procedures for keeping the new site fresh, innovative, useful and informative for our community of practice. PICNet's management office is working hard to have the new web site up and live as soon as possible. We will keep you informed of the launch date!

The CLG is also playing an important role in preparing for the release of the Auditor General's report on Infection Prevention and Control in BC (the public release of the report is anticipated for February, 2007). PICNet will act as a resource to the Health Authorities as they respond to the report. Thanks to hard work and time contributed by many PICNet volunteers and the many initiatives taken forward, we will be well prepared to respond to this report.

PICNet Stakeholders Summit Planning Committee

The planning committee for PICNet's upcoming Stakeholders Summit Planning Committee has agreed that the next meeting will be a 2 day event at the end of April with the first day focusing on PICNet working group updates and the second day focusing on education. **Anyone who has a particular topic that they wish the planning committee to consider for the educational day, please send your recommendation to: picnet@bccdc.ca.** A formal announcement with all the details about the upcoming meeting will be issued to all PICNet Stakeholders before the end of January.

Congratulations to the winners of PICNet draw at PHABC conference

PICNet would like to congratulate the winners of the draw from our display booth at the Public Health Association of BC conference, held November 26-28, 2006. Winners have been contacted and their prizes claimed. Carol Amaratunga and Lorna Malone won PICNet umbrellas, while Karoline Phillip and Morgan Yates are the proud new owners of PICNet water bottles.

Webber Training debrief and looking ahead to 2007

Webber Training is growing in popularity, with an ever-increasing number of participants from within BC's infection prevention and control community joining in on classes that address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

PICNet has hosted these educational classes offered by Webber Training since February 2006. Through this program, power-point presentation notes and dialing coordinates are provided to all

participants before the scheduled teleclass. From wherever they may be in the province, participants dial in and listen to the lecture while viewing the presentation on their own computer screens.

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/schedulep1.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 January.

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
January 07, 2007	Third National Infection Prevalence Survey of UK and Ireland Hospitals – Process and Initial Results (British Teleclass)	Christine Perry, Bristol Royal Infirmary
January 18, 2007	Personal Hygiene Measures to Prevent Influenza Transmission	Dr. Elaine Larson, Columbia University
January 25, 2007	21st Century Plagues	Prof. Robert Pratt, Thames Valley University, Director, Richard Wells Research Centre

Upcoming PICNet Meetings

Meeting	Date
Communications Leadership Group	January 10
Project Priority and Planning Committee	January 23
PICNet's Stakeholders Summit Planning Committee	January 24

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www.picnetbc.ca