

LONG-TERM CARE INTEREST GROUP

The Long-Term Care (LTC) Interest Group met in Vancouver, B.C. Saturday, May 29th, 2010 with 29 members/guests in attendance. Lee Hanna volunteered to Chair the meeting in the absence of the current Co-chairs and an agenda was developed. Agenda items discussed included:

Old Business:

- Summary of the impact of H1N1 pandemic influenza in LTCH (Long-Term Care Homes)/Continuing Care including: concerns around N95 respirator fit testing; influenza vaccine rollout; H1N1 outbreaks in LTCH
- AROs (Antibiotic Resistant Organisms): surveillance, screening and management. Request to members to forward feedback as to their protocols for AROs.
- Reference and literature regarding the use of bar soap.
- PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada) revised documents pending
- CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) equipment cleaning- Protocol to be shared and posted on website.
- CHICA Connections Web board information- a need for an easier process to share ideas and knowledge

New Business:

- Request for resources pertaining to New Facility design in LTCH
- Hand Hygiene programs in LTCH- sharing of programs including hand hygiene audit process
- Discussion as to proposed direction of this LTC-IG

Chair/Co-chair elections took place with Cheryl Collins accepting a 1 year term of Chair and Marilyn Weinmaster a 2 year term Co-chair. In order to foster leadership continuity, it was agreed that the chair will step down after a one year term and the Co-chair will assume Chair position and a new Co-chair will be elected at the next annual conference.

The group discussed the difficulties of lack of ongoing communication throughout the year. To address this, after the annual meeting in Vancouver, the group developed a Q&A (Question and Answer) template and protocol for circulating questions and to share resources. A newly created email distribution list, which includes 21 current chapter representatives and 42 additional members that requested to participate in this interest group, is utilized to facilitate the process. Since development, this process has been used successfully on several occasions throughout the year to broadly communicate and share resources on pertinent LTC focused questions. To date discussions have included ARO surveillance and screening; UTI (Urinary Tract Infection) surveillance and management; Personal Protective Equipment required for Foot Care providers and outbreak costing tools.

We are looking forward to regrouping and networking at our upcoming LTC Interest Group meeting in Toronto during the 2011 CHICA national educational conference. Plans are currently under way to incorporate a short educational component during this meeting with a presentation by a member on their successful implementation of a hand hygiene program and orientation package. In Toronto, we anticipate the opportunity to set innovative goals that will inspire and influence our practice throughout 2011 in the LTC/Continuing Care sector.

Cheryl Collins BScN CIC(Chair)

Marilyn Weinmaster BScN, CIC(Co-chair)