



MEDIA RELEASE

Infection Prevention and Control: Clean It Up National Infection Control Week – October 20-24th, 2008

“Clean It Up: Stop the spread of AROs” is the theme of this year’s National Infection Control Week, October 20th to 24th, 2008. Manitoba’s Infection Control Week is being led by the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA) Manitoba Chapter with the support of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS).

Bacteria or germs can live on and in many people without causing harm. Sometimes these germs can cause infections that are usually treated with antibiotics. Sometimes the antibiotics do not work to kill the germs, and these resistant forms of the germs are called **Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (AROs)**. AROs are things like Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE).

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, germs that are resistant to antibiotics are one of the worlds most pressing health problems,” said Betty Taylor, Community and Hospital Infection control Association, Manitoba Chapter President. “Every Manitoban can prevent and control infections by simply cleaning up!”

CHICA is encouraging all Manitobans to take special care. Here’s how:

- ☞ Clean your hands with soap and water or waterless hand rub
- ☞ If you have an infection, keep yourself and your house clean
- ☞ Use antibiotics wisely; not all infections need medicine, ask your health care professional about the proper use of antibiotics
- ☞ If you do have to take antibiotics make sure you finish all the pills. Do not share antibiotics with others.

CHICA Manitoba is one of 21 Canadian chapters that form CHICA-Canada, a national, multi-disciplinary, voluntary association of Infection Control Professionals. It is dedicated to the health of Manitobans by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control. Infection Control Professionals play a critical role in safeguarding the health of Manitobans – patients in hospitals, residents in long-term care facilities, children in daycares, students in schools, and people in the community.

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS) promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of health care for Manitobans.

CHICA Manitoba and MIPS are working toward a mutual goal of quality health care for Manitobans.

For more information:

Visit CHICA Manitoba Chapter’s web site (www.chica.org/MANITOBA/index.html) for infection prevention and control information and to contact your local chapter,

OR

Contact the Infection Control Professional in your local facility or community for further information on activities planned for National Infection Control Week in your area.

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