



# Welcome to CHICA-Canada

The provision of infection prevention and control services is rapidly evolving amid the demand for scarce resources. Challenges to practice include consideration of decreased numbers of acute care inpatient beds and an increased demand for long-term care beds; expansion of home care services, increased patient acuity, increased numbers of same day procedures, and advanced diagnostic procedures. Protection for patients and employees includes consideration of global travel, blood-borne pathogens, the resurgence of tuberculosis, and the explosive increase in multiply resistant organisms.

Whether you work in acute care, long-term care, home care, public health, physician's office, dentistry or other, CHICA-Canada will assist your practice as you address the concerns of the consumer. Membership in CHICA-Canada, and your local infection control association, will provide many benefits specific to your area of practice:

- Timely awareness and access to current infection prevention and control information, research, standards and guidelines, and opportunities for education through a national professional body.
- Access to expert knowledge and sharing of information, experience, goals and objectives, policies and procedures, and an opportunity to confirm practice through networking.
- CHICA representatives will lobby government agencies and administrators to address infection prevention and control issues relevant to your particular area of practice.

Participation in both your national and local infection control associations will provide a professional affirmation that infection prevention and control practitioners possess a particular body of knowledge and expertise. Your network with CHICA-Canada will become an important source of professional support.

Infection control practitioners are important members of the health care team. We do make a difference. We must be prepared to move with change, support each other, and get involved.

**Join CHICA-Canada today.**

## **VISION STATEMENT**

CHICA-Canada will lead in the promotion of excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control.

## **MISSION**

CHICA-Canada is a national, multidisciplinary, voluntary association of professionals. CHICA-Canada is committed to improving the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control by employing evidence based practice and application of epidemiological principles. This is accomplished through education, communication, standards, research and consumer awareness.

## **VALUES**

### **Professional Integrity**

To be principled, forthright and ethical, and to seek the highest standards in all our activities.

### **Empirical Thinking**

To use analytical thinking in our activities and decision making.

### **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention**

To promote wellness and to be proactive in influencing policy that benefits health.

### **Social and Environmental Awareness**

To be cognizant of the safety, health and welfare of Canadians, and to respond publicly to issues affecting infection control outcomes.

### **Accessibility and Responsiveness**

To be responsive and proactive in meeting the membership's needs. To maintain open communication between the Chapters and the Board. To strive to educate our membership in the science of infection control and epidemiology.

### **Innovation**

To be resourceful and inventive to advance infection control knowledge and practice.

### **Diversity**

To respect and embrace national and international social and cultural differences.

### **Excellence in Quality and Service**

To provide the most responsive service, and to uphold the standards of our profession.



## What is CHICA-Canada?

The Community of Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada (CHICA-Canada) is a national and professional organization whose purpose is to facilitate communication among those professionals engaged in the prevention and control of infection.

CHICA-Canada was founded in 1976 and is a multidisciplinary, non-profit association of professionals committed to improving the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control. CHICA-Canada promotes excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control through the following initiatives:

1. initiating and developing effective communication among professionals
2. supporting the development of effective and rational practice
3. encouraging standardization and critical evaluation of practice
4. promoting research in practices and procedures
5. promoting and facilitating education
6. promoting consumer awareness within the community

Professionals engaged in the prevention and control of infection co-operate and collaborate together to provide improved health care across Canada through membership in CHICA-Canada.

### **CHICA-Canada's Official Handwashing Statement**

Consistent, thorough hand hygiene is the cornerstone of preventing the spread of infection. Hand hygiene decreases the number of disease-causing organisms on the surface of your skin, and can be achieved by either traditional handwashing, or by rubbing a waterless antiseptic product on hands. To be effective, hand hygiene should be performed:

- \*before and after contact with patients, their body substances or items contaminated by them;
- \*between different procedures on the same patient;
- \*after removing gloves;
- \*before and after performing invasive procedures;
- \* after performing personal functions such as blowing your nose or using the toilet;
- \* before eating, preparing or serving food, feeding a patient; and
- \*when hands are visibly soiled.

To wash your hands, use warm running water, soap, friction for at least 15 seconds and to dry your hands, use a clean towel or paper towels. Turn off the taps with a paper towel to avoid recontaminating your hands. Waterless antiseptic hand hygiene products are an excellent alternative to soap and water and may be used if hands are not visibly soiled. Hand lotions or creams should be available to minimize any skin irritation or breakdown caused by hand hygiene. These lotions or creams should not interfere with the persistent antimicrobial effect of the hand hygiene agent being used. Proper hand hygiene should be an individual and an institutional priority. As Infection Control Professionals, it is our responsibility to teach and promote good hand hygiene.



## The Benefits of Belonging to CHICA-Canada

### **Belonging to CHICA-Canada — The Benefits**

As a member of CHICA-Canada you will have the opportunity to network provincially, regionally and nationally through receipt of:

#### **The CHICA-Canada Membership Directory**

- The membership directory provides you with a list of CHICA-Canada Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents, lists of peers across Canada (alphabetically, geographically and by institute).
- The directory also contains information about national conferences, infection prevention and control education courses, and a list of members who have indicated special knowledge and expertise that they are willing to share.

#### **The Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC)**

- The official publication of CHICA-Canada, this *Journal* is published four times a year and includes articles which will assist you in your practice of infection prevention and control.

#### **The CHICA-Canada Compendium**

- This resource is published in the *Directory* and provides information on current resources, publications and standards and guidelines to assist you in maintaining your expertise.

#### **The CHICA-Canada Website**

- As a member of CHICA-Canada you will have access to the Members section of the website, where you can chat with other members, have access to committee reports and the CHICA policy manual, download posters and images, fact sheets, presentations from the annual conference, and much more.

#### **Education**

- Membership with CHICA-Canada provides access to opportunities for education such as Infection Control I and Infection Control II, distance education courses and reduced registration fees for annual conferences and other educational offerings.
- Attendance at the three- or four-day national conferences provides access to expanded networking, and expert knowledge and revitalizes what is often a one person department.

Provincial and regional education sessions are also available.

- Certification in Infection Control (CIC), through a certification board, promotes control and prevention of disease transmission for users and providers of health care. The designation CIC indicates that educational and practice requirements have been measured against a standard of current knowledge.

#### **Support**

- Belonging to CHICA-Canada provides opportunities to confirm practice, share information, goals, objectives, policies and procedures.
- Membership also provides opportunities to share information and ideas for Infection Control Week, meet accreditation standards, and take part in and receive support for research. CHICA-Canada provides a list of members suggested by the CHICA-Canada Board as experts in such areas as foot care, dialysis, waste management, resistant organisms, etc.

#### **Local Chapters / Associations**

- Supporting your local chapter affords an avenue to provide feedback and obtain support from your national association, CHICA-Canada. Local chapter benefits may include local networking, local educational opportunities and funding assistance. Contact CHICA-Canada for further information.

**Your national association CHICA-Canada helps you maintain your expertise through education, communication, standards, research and consumer awareness.**

**CHICA-Canada fosters international links to maintain a global perspective.**



## The Role of Infection Control Practitioners (ICPs)

### PHILOSOPHY

- The ICP's role involves the daily collaborative efforts within all facets of health care.
- The ICP's professional responsibility is to act as a facilitator to reduce the risk of infection within health care.
- The ICP uses continuous quality improvement methodology and epidemiological principles within a fiscally responsible environment.
- The ICP's knowledge of epidemiology is a resource available to others.
- As an expert resource in infection prevention and health promotion, the ICP's client base may include patients, families, front-line staff, managers, ancillary support staff, volunteers, medical staff, researchers, administrators, industry and others.
- The ICP's expertise bridges the gap to health care facilities, to the community, to related professional disciplines and to industry.
- ICPs have the responsibility to ensure that their unique qualifications and expertise are recognized as a contribution to excellence in client-centered care.
- Accountability, education, surveillance, quality improvement, consultation and research — attaining the standards to meet the challenge of an ICP.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Possesses knowledge and/or has job-related experience in the health care field.
- Works independently, is self-motivated and self-directed, while also possessing the ability to work in a collaborative manner.
- Demonstrates the ability to articulate effectively the important components of an infection prevention and control program with all levels of personnel/clients.
- Demonstrates effective leadership and management skills.
- Possesses knowledge of, and is able to use principles of, program development and teaching.
- Demonstrates expert verbal and written communication skills.
- Possesses knowledge of epidemiological principles, statistics, microbiology, infectious diseases, patient care practice and continuous quality improvement.
- Demonstrates the ability to integrate this knowledge into clinical practice.
- Possesses or is working towards Certification in Infection Control (CIC).  
Contact CBIC/Applied Measurement Professionals at 913-599-4174.
- Possesses or is working towards a baccalaureate degree in a health-related field.



## Standing Committees and Special Interest Groups

### **CHICA-Canada Contributing to Practice Standing Committees and Special Interest Groups**

Standing Committees of CHICA-Canada consist of Chapter representatives from specific health care sectors. Committee members provide a link between Chapters and members of CHICA-Canada to:

- a) solicit input from Chapter members
- b) convey information about committee activities and progress
- c) assist in providing action to the strategic plan.

#### **1. Government and Public Affairs Committee**

Influences local, provincial and national regulatory and legislative bodies on infection prevention and control issues.

#### **2. Membership Committee**

Develops and implements planning to promote membership in CHICA-Canada.

#### **3. Standards and Guidelines Committee**

Reviews, comments on and develops relevant infection control guidelines.

#### **4. Education Committee**

Addresses education and training needs identified by the membership by devising a strategic plan, developing programs and reviewing educational materials.

#### **5. Programs and Projects Committee**

Identifies and facilitates special projects for the promotion of CHICA-Canada and infection prevention and control.

#### **6. Interest Groups**

Addresses the unique needs for networking and information sharing associated with special professional interests:

- i) Long Term Care
- ii) Dialysis
- iii) Oncology
- iv) Pediatrics