

DIRECTOR, STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

1. Formation and activities of the Core Committee

A core committee was established in late 2006 to work with the Director on issues related to Standards and Guidelines for CHICA. This committee is representative of geographic and disciplines within CHICA, and the group has met by teleconference monthly through 2007. All minutes and products of the meetings are posted on the CHICA website in the Standards & Guidelines section. The approved summary terms of reference of the CC and initial tasks were approved by the CHICA Board and include:

1. developing a priority list of position statements that CHICA should address and encourage interest groups and others to develop the priority position statements
2. developing a standard template for CHICA position statements to guide their development in a consistent manner
3. developing a process for development, review and approval for publication of CHICA position statements
4. reviewing guidelines forwarded from other groups for CHICA endorsement as appropriate
5. updating the CHICA compendium annually
6. members may be asked to act in place of the Director S&G as needed to represent CHICA on national committees

2. Process for development and approval of position statements

This was developed, reviewed by the CHICA Board and posted on the CHICA website. The core committee used this template in approval of the latest position statement and received feedback from the involved interest group that it was helpful for them to understand the process up front and to know the expected timelines for review etc.

3. Position statements

A number of position statements were reviewed and a list of priority issues for position statements was developed. This list was reviewed with the Standards & Guidelines committee at the June meeting in Edmonton, and several additions were made. The list is posted on the CHICA website.

The following position statements were reviewed or approved in 2007:

1. Expressed Breast Milk: approved and published
2. Toys: revisions sent back to Pediatric Interest Group; no revised statement received yet.
3. Hepatitis B in Dialysis units: revised, approved and published.
4. Healthcare Facility Design Position Statement- under review; first revisions sent back to Healthcare Facility Design and Construction Interest Group.
5. Review of Audit tools- ongoing
6. Hand Hygiene revision: undertaken by the Core Committee and in final revision stage before being forwarded to the CHICA Board.

4. Update of the CHICA Compendium

With the invaluable assistance of Shirley McDonald, Clare Barry and the Core Committee, the CHICA compendium was completely revised and updated this year. The new version contains many hyperlinks to allow for quick access to reports and papers and is posted on the CHICA website. While the paper copy will still be produced this year it is the hope of the committee that an electronic version will be available in stead in the future. We are looking at options such as putting it on CD to include with the membership package as well as publishing on-line. Periodic updates have been made to the on-line version as new material becomes available.

5. **New Projects**

At the annual meeting in Edmonton in June several other initiatives were suggested including developing a clearinghouse or summary site for research in IPC that is being done across the country and establishing a site for easy access to guidelines of each province related to IPC. We will be exploring these further in the upcoming months.

Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP)

The following report submitted by Barbara Amihod

The Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP), a sub-committee of the Canadian Hospital Epidemiology Committee (CHEC) did not hold its annual project review meeting in the fall of 2007 because there were numerous personnel changes. Therefore I am unable to report on the analysis of any data. It is tentatively scheduled for April 2008.

The following surveillance programs are continuing in the adult hospitals participating in CNISP:

1. MRSA/VRE Surveillance: MRSA data is now able to be entered directly on the CNISP website.
2. Severe Respiratory Illness Surveillance: This project from Nov. 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008. the objectives are: to describe the incidence, outcome, epidemiology and infection control measures of laboratory-confirmed influenza for hospitalized adults; and to continue surveillance for hospital-associated outbreaks of influenza and to describe their epidemiology in Canadian acute care hospitals
An abstract “Surveillance for Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza in Adults Hospitalized in Canadian Acute-Care Hospitals” had been submitted to the 2008 meeting of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada.
3. Central Venous Catheter Associated Blood Stream Infections in ICU/NICU patients: This data is now entered directly on the CNISP website.
4. CDAD surveillance laboratory- confirmed surveillance was from May – September 2007.

Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion (CCIAP)

The following report submitted by Pam Siddall MLT, CIC

Influenza Immunization Promotion 2007-08

- There may be a mismatch this season between the viral strain in the vaccine and the predominant circulating strain (H3N2)
- NACI recommends immunization for all pregnant women however not all provinces and territories will include this group in the publicly funded program
- Numerous promotional activities through a variety of venues
- A new workplace promotion was undertaken by PHAC in conjunction with CCIAP

Adult Immunization Promotion

- A variety of ads were published in journals directed at physicians to include immunization in patient visits. Other ads are focused on the public taking responsibility for their own health by asking physicians about immunizations

National Immunization Week April 20-26

- Focus may be on new Canadians

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

- Canadian Pharmacists Association, May 31- June 3, Victoria
- Canadian Public Health Association June 1-4, Halifax

CSA

The following report submitted by: Sharon Wilson and Karen Stockton

TSC: Health Facility Design Standard Meeting #1: June 12 & 13, 2007 Halifax, Nova Scotia

Attended by: Sharon Wilson

The two-day meeting was the first step in establishing the framework for the subcommittee, activity and document for the CSA Health Facility Design standard. Several items were discussed/resolved at the meeting;

1. Inclusion of other members to be more comprehensive on an ad-hoc basis as well as appointed basis, fill in gaps
2. Be a guideline from CSA with should and shall in the language
3. Establish initial working teams for development of content
4. Look at the format and determine what it is we will and will not be in detail (somewhere between American Institute of Architects (AIA) document and Ministry of Health and Long Term Care of Ontario- Generic Output Specifications {GOS})
5. Question to consider is whether to include both new and existing facility construction recommendations
6. Using a functional approach not a facility approach
7. Adopted several guiding principals and decision criteria
8. Publish sooner incorporating an aggressive timeline for work and outputs and be in a readable understandable language

Meeting #2, October 24 & 25, 2007 Mississauga, Ontario

Attended by: Sharon Wilson and Karen Stockton

The two-day meeting was quite productive in the development of the format for the document and the start of the working teams activities. It was decided to change the format to be service not program based and cover continuum of facility under sub headings.

Teams were established and work commenced on the initial content followed by a review of the work accomplished at the end of the two days.

A gap analysis will be included early on to ensure that items and services are not excluded. Further discussions will be ongoing in upcoming meetings of the committee including decisions of best practice versus minimum standards.

Committee membership is nearly complete with some national groups to identify the participant for the committee. Sharon Wilson is sitting on the accommodation team (anything with an overnight stay or inpatient component to its function) Karen Stockton is situated on services or programs that are treatment (i.e. ED, OR, LDRP).

The team assignments are not exclusive in that all committee members will be sharing their expertise across all teams. Teams will be meeting on an on-line messaging page to work between now and the meeting in Vancouver. Teams are now waiting for feedback from the technical committee on a finalized outline based on the work done in the October meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21/22,2008 in Vancouver.

Permission has been granted by AIA to use their text and in return the CSA standard will be shared with AIA. With the source documents being AIA and GOS there is a good foundation for the development of a useful well-supported document.

Outstanding items for debate include:

- Proportion of Single rooms.
- Whether to include office space requirements for healthcare workers.

*Bonnie Henry MD MPH FRCPC
Director, Standards and Guidelines*