

PREHOSPITAL CARE INTEREST GROUP

With the arrival of the H1N1 pandemic in early spring, 2009 proved to be a busy year for all involved in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). The additional workload prevented the progress on some of our projects. However, the networking opportunities and implementation of our pandemic plans was invaluable. Now, as we regroup and review our pandemic plans, we will determine what worked well and what needs improvement and or revision.

During the Interest Group meeting at the CHICA Canada conference in St. John's, Grant Moir continued his term as co-chair, and there was a co-chair election in which Jennifer Amyotte was nominated and elected to replace Greg Bruce. The group expressed their appreciation for Greg's hard work and leadership since the commencement of the Pre-Hospital Care (PHC) Interest Group and his commitment as co-chair for two successive terms. Greg continues to provide his expertise and remains an integral and valued member.

The annual CHICA-Canada Conference in Newfoundland not only brought good times and great learning but also the opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss and plan our future projects. Those who presented in the conference included Natalie Hiltz, who presented an oral presentation; Greg Bruce, who delivered a poster presentation; and Margaret MacKenzie with Barb Goulet, who delivered a second poster presentation. These provided a valuable opportunity to increase the awareness of the PHC interest group during the annual conference.

A highlight of the year for the PHC Interest Group was the CHICA-Canada review, and soon-to-be approval of the PHC Infection Prevention and Control Audit Tool. The development of this tool took many hours of work and we anxiously await the full launch and inclusion of the tool within the CHICA compendium toolkit. With stakeholder and front line provider consultation, the tool addresses some unique factors in the PHC environment.

Projects that are ongoing include:

- * Building bridges with provincial and national partners that include possible consideration for a PHC road show to introduce the PHC audit tool,
- * Developing a position statement for effective cleaning and disinfection of emergency response vehicles which will address fogging/misting techniques,
- * Working with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) manufacturers to better understand the special needs of PHC personnel (such as gowns that do not fit over duty jackets/uniforms),
- * Developing an academic resource manual and kit to provide national IPC educational competencies designed to meet the needs and challenges in the PHC environment, and
- * Reviewing and editing the PHC presentation given at the annual CHICA Conference held in Montreal. It will then be shared with other CHICA chapters.

The following is a chronological listing of the interest group activities for 2009:

- * May - PHC Working Group meeting at the Newfoundland CHICA Canada Conference
- * May - PHC Interest Group meeting at Newfoundland CHICA-Canada Conference discussed and approved the joining of both the Working Group and Interest Group as there is much overlap in dialogue and membership.
- * October - Inquiry into joining the Scientific Group for 2011 conference.
- * June - PHC Interest Group worked with PHAC for stakeholder review of the Prehospital Guidance Document for H1N1
- * December - 2009 Ontario PHC group review and provide feedback got the MOHLTC Guidance documents for management of ILI for PHC Settings during pH1N1 2009 released November 13, 2009

The group would like to express their sincere appreciation to everyone in the Programs and Projects Committee for their evaluation and valuable feedback on the Prehospital Care Audit Tool. We look forward to having it posted on the CHICA website in the near future. As we look forward to 2010, the group will continue to work on our ambitious project listed. The group plans on meeting by teleconference throughout the year to maintain momentum on our current projects. In Vancouver, we hope to create work plans, set priorities, and move our projects forward.

*Grant Moir EMT-P MEM CRSP
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