

PICNet Annual Report

April 2014–March 2015



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Acknowledgements

PICNet is a true network in that we rely on the involvement of all the BC Health Authorities and our Community of Practice. Our Scientific Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC), Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC), Guidelines Steering Committee (GSC), and Education Steering Committee (ESC) are made up of representatives from the health authorities, and we thank them for their valuable contribution of time and expert opinion. Without the hard work of these members, PICNet would not be able to produce the volume and quality of work that it does.

In addition, our Community of Practice members participate in our working groups, provide feedback on draft documents that we post for review, and relay information to their colleagues and staff. We thank you for your support of PICNet and your contribution to infection prevention and control across the continuum of care.



Executive Summary

The Provincial Infection Control Network of BC (PICNet) was formed in 2005 by the BC Ministry of Health (MoH) in response to the infection control gaps identified by the SARS outbreak. PICNet was created as a multi-disciplinary network in order to improve coordination of urgent/emergent issues at a provincial level, and to establish provincial surveillance of healthcare-associated infections (HAI).

PICNet's strength is based on its ability to bring together the right people to participate in projects and initiatives proposed by the community of practice. As a result, PICNet has built a reputation as being the provincial source for infection control guidance. We provide accountability, transparency, and a forum for provincial discussion of infection control issues. Using the best available evidence, PICNet's Community of Practice (representing all health authorities and the Ministry of Health) has developed a robust guideline development process, a quality HAI surveillance program, and a suite of educational resources.

This report provides an overview of PICNet's last ten years, as well as more in-depth feedback to our Committee of Practice and other stakeholders on our activities during the fiscal year 2014-2015.

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet worked on several projects during 2014-2015, though much of our time this year was focused on the rapid development of provincial protocols for the management of Ebola Virus Disease. In collaboration with the health authorities, PICNet also developed a discussion paper on the reprocessing of foot care equipment in hospital and community settings. New resources were provided to PICNet's Community of Practice, such as the Infection Control Quick-Reference Guide for Residential Care Facilities. This guide translates the information in PICNet's residential care guidelines, which are evidence-based, into a format that is more accessible to point-of-care staff.

Guidelines and Toolkits

Over the past ten years, PICNet has developed and/or collaborated on more than ten guidelines and toolkits. These guidelines, which are updated every few years to include new developments and information, can be found in the [Guidelines and Toolkits](#) section of the PICNet website. In 2014-2015, a *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) Toolkit for Residential Care facilities was created and the Guidelines for Home and Community Care were updated and revised. In addition, a great deal of progress was made around CDI and Carbapenemase Producing Organisms (CPO): the provincial outbreak definitions were finalized; new resources for CDI treatment were developed; and the CPO toolkit was published. Evidence-informed guidelines are a priority for the Ministry to ensure that health care professionals are able to provide the highest quality care to patients.

Surveillance

PICNet’s surveillance program works toward the Ministry of Health (MoH) objective of building informatics capacity to use data to enhance decision-making and improve outcomes at all levels of the system. The teamwork and trust built with our partners over the years expedited the development of PICNet’s surveillance program, which now includes CDI, MRSA, Hand Hygiene Compliance, and most recently, CPO.

In 2014-2015, the provincially mandated CPO surveillance program was launched, with provincial data collection commencing in July 2014. PICNet continues to work with BCPHMRL and the health authorities on refining this new program, and on creating reports that will be valuable to the MoH and other parties. PICNet hired a Surveillance Systems Coordinator to assist with this new work.

Facilitating the reporting of key healthcare indicators helps the health authorities meet the requirement set by the MoH in both the CDI and Hand Hygiene communiqués. In addition, an interactive web-based map for the surveillance data on PICNet’s website is under development. This will help decision-makers in both the MoH and at the health authority executive level to have quick access to high-quality data.



PICNet’s new interactive surveillance map

Education

Professional development is a Ministry priority to ensure that staff are fully educated in evidence-informed practice to ensure quality care. Educational events also offer an opportunity for the members of our CoP to have rigorous discussion about their professional practice. Over the past ten years, PICNet has created a suite of educational resources, including online modules, the Let’s Go Viral! workshop kit, posters and booklets, annual educational grants, and access for our CoP to the Webber Training teleclass series.

In 2014-2015, PICNet hosted its eighth annual educational conference, as well as a CDI/CPO symposium. Delegates attended from all BC health authorities, as well as from non-affiliated sites, and from across the continuum of care. PICNet staff also gave in-services and presentations to several groups, and PICNet continues to make the Webber Training series of infection control seminars freely available to the CoP. PICNet also continues to fund members of the Community of Practice (CoP) to attend educational events. In 2014–2015, PICNet awarded grants to thirteen people to attend conferences.

Communications

Over the past decade, PICNet has worked to expand its Community of Practice by being the “go to” source for infection control information, guidelines, and resources; by engaging healthcare professionals from across the pillars of care; and by responding to their requests.

In October 2013, PICNet was involved in several activities for Infection Control Week: residential care in-services, the creation of a new, downloadable Planning and Communications Toolkit, and an updated *Let's Go Viral!* workshop kit. These resources and activities are aimed at professional development, and at delivering information to point-of-care staff that will result in safer patient care.

The PICNet website was structurally reorganized and moved to a new platform. The new site makes it easier for users to find content, and there is a greatly improved search function; this makes PICNet's information more accessible to decision-makers, educators, and infection control practitioners.

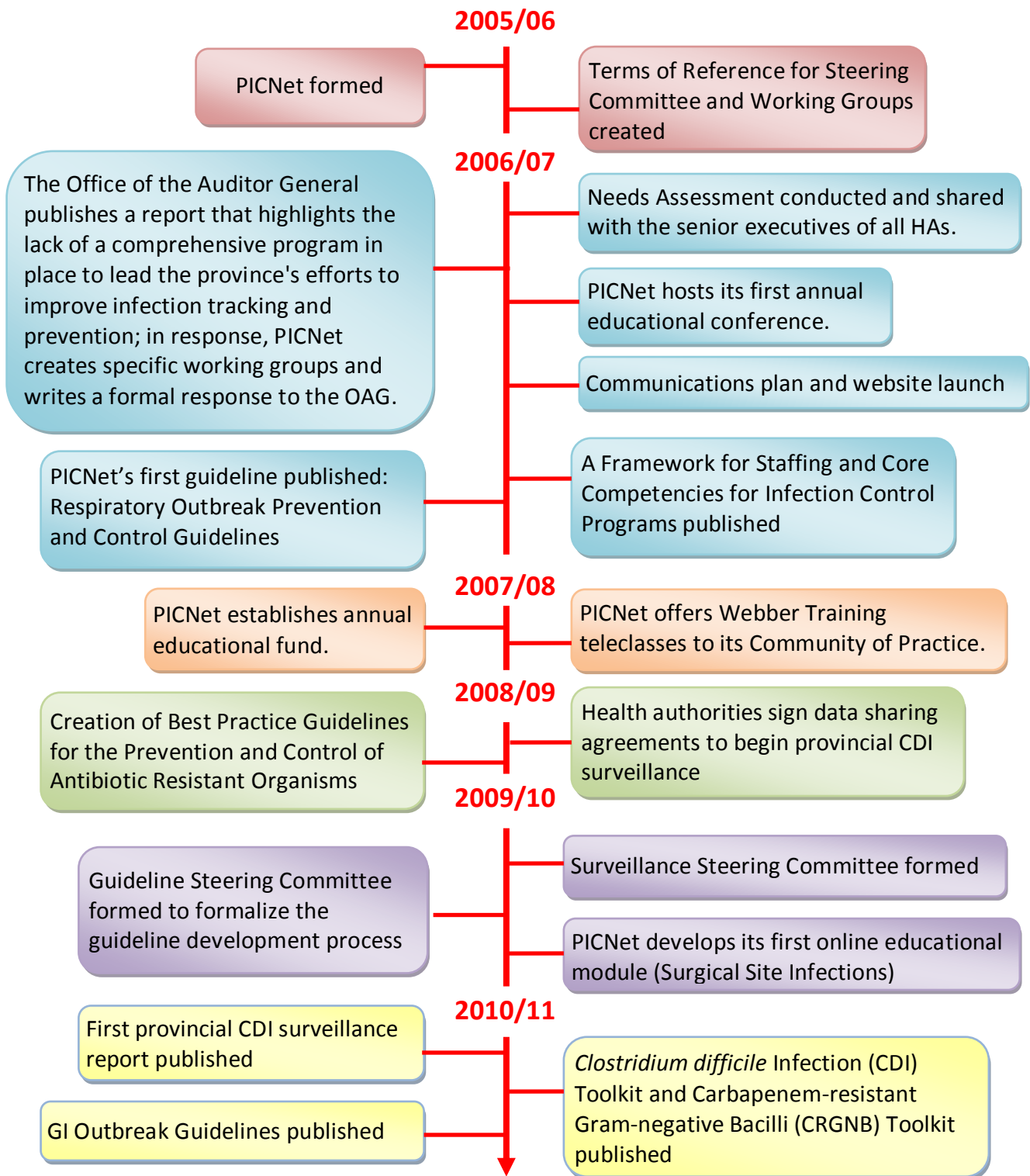
PICNet hosted the provincial *Clean Shots* hand hygiene photo contest on its website, and played a key planning role. The contest was a collaboration between all the health authorities and two provincial working groups, and received national recognition for its role in staff engagement around hand hygiene. The initiative worked towards the Ministry objective of “a provincial engagement and influence ... framework in collaboration with health authorities ... to support the creation of inclusive, vibrant and healthy workplaces across the health sector.”

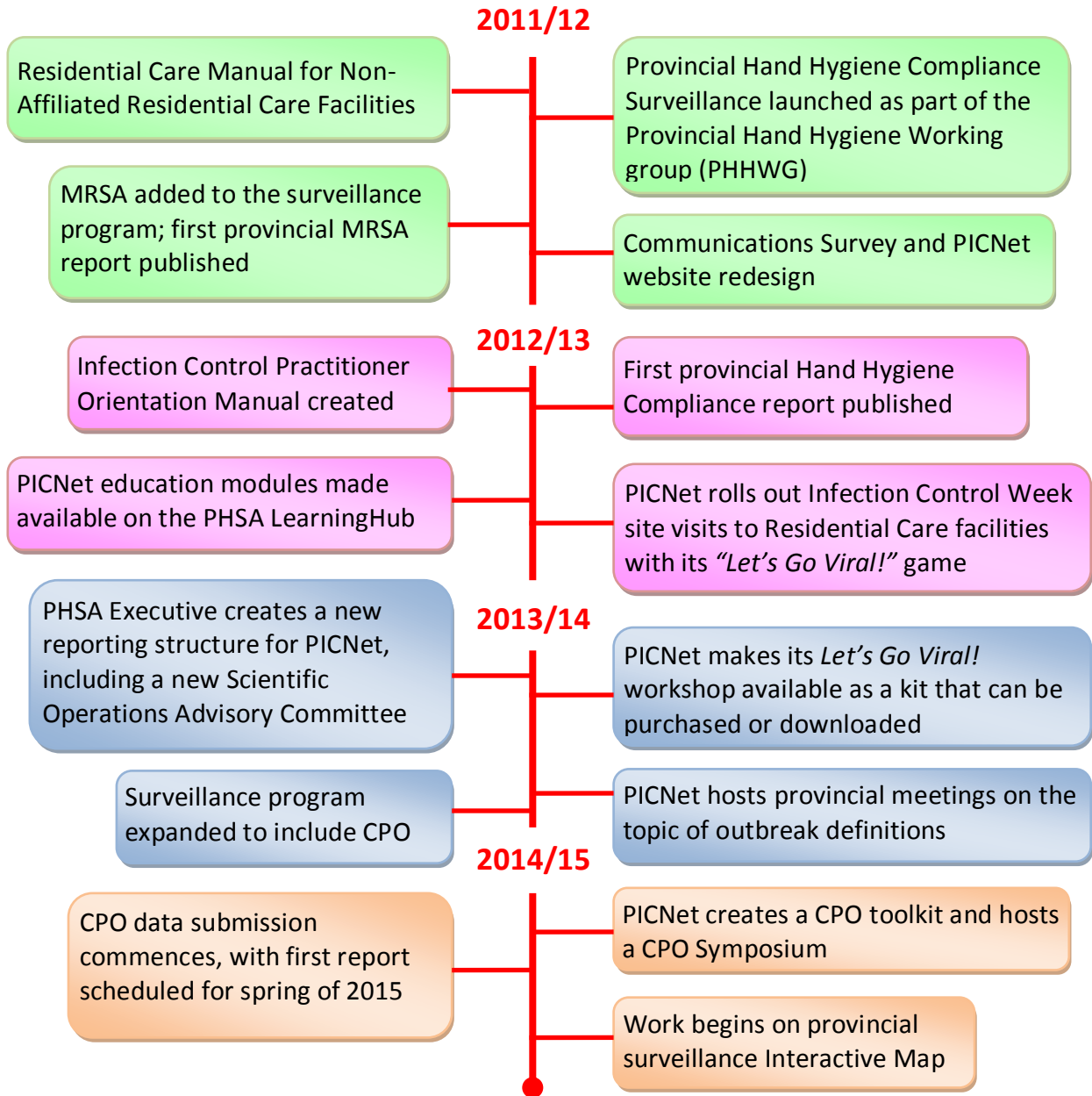


Partnerships

PICNet continued to play an important role in provincial and national organizations and committees, including Infection Prevention and Control - Canada (IPAC-Canada), the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG), and other expert working groups and advisory committees.

PICNet 10-year Highlights





You can read about how the scope of PICNet’s work aligns with specific strategies set out by the Ministry of Health in its document “Setting Priorities for the B.C. Health System” (February 2014) in Appendix B: Alignment with Ministry Strategies.

About PICNet

The Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) is a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) that works with partner organizations across the province to reduce healthcare-associated infections. We do this by enabling sound information, improving and sharing evidence-based practices, and influencing policy decisions.

Our work is reflected in our new vision statement: **Fewer infections – better healthcare.**

Within the context of the strategic goals of the Ministry of Health and the PHSA, the following strategic directions serve as the foundation for PICNet's mission:

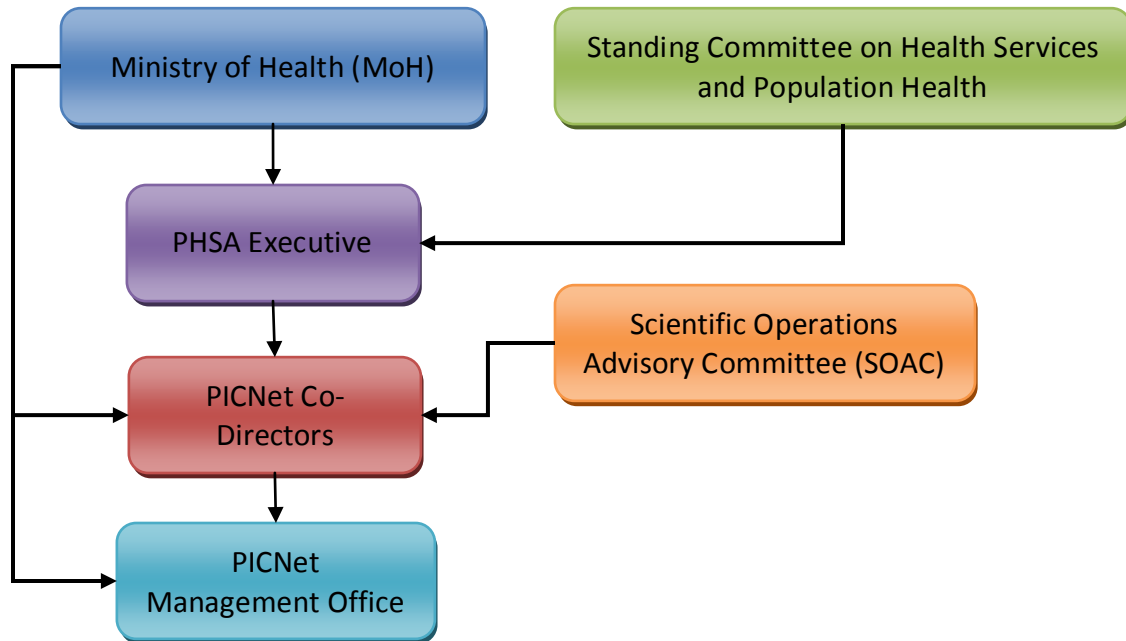
1. Improve coordination in provincial surveillance programs for healthcare-associated infections
2. Enhance communications of infection prevention and control activities across the continuum of care in the province
3. Continue to develop, provide and promote educational opportunities and resources for the community of practice, for both their own professional development and the education of other healthcare providers
4. Develop evidence-based practice guidelines, tools, and resources, and facilitate their implementation
5. Create a forum where experts can work together to provide advice to the Ministry of Health and the health authorities on key infection prevention and control policies, initiatives, and emergencies

Our Community of Practice (CoP) includes infection prevention and control professionals (ICP), medical microbiologists, epidemiologists, as well as experts in patient safety and quality, public health, occupational health, and others.

PICNet's strength is built on its strong professional relationships within the infection prevention and control CoP and other partners. These relationships allow PICNet to lead initiatives, in the spirit of collaboration, that work towards minimizing healthcare-associated infections in BC and across Canada.

Scientific Operations Advisory Committee

Following revisions to PICNet’s terms of reference in 2014, the role of our Scientific Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC) has been strengthened. This committee has a vital function in reviewing and providing advice on PICNet’s strategic directions and providing expert advice on evidence-based infection control practice. The Committee is comprised of eight members who are Operational Leads appointed by each health authority to serve as champions within their own jurisdictions, and eight Scientific Experts appointed by the PICNet Co-Directors to provide expertise in their profession.



A more detailed [PICNet reporting structure diagram](#) can be found on the PICNet website.

PICNet Co-Directors and Staff



PICNet Co-Directors and Staff

Dr. Elizabeth Bryce
Co-Director

Bruce Gamage
Network Manager

Joanne Archer
Education and Practice Coordinator

Romali Ranasinghe
Surveillance Systems Coordinator

Dr. Judith Isaac-Renton
Co-Director

Dr. Guanghong Han
Surveillance Epidemiologist

Helen Evans
Communications Officer

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet takes on projects requested by the MoH, as well as ones that are requested by our CoP and partners. In 2014–2015, PICNet worked on four projects for the MoH, three requested by partner organizations/committees, and one from our Community of Practice.

Provincial Protocols for Ebola Virus Disease

With the escalating Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis in the summer/fall of 2014, PICNet staff were seconded by the MoH to help develop provincial protocols for the management of EVD cases that could arrive in BC. Protocols were developed for the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff caring for EVD patients, management of materials and potentially infectious waste, housekeeping, and management of exposed staff. We developed educational materials (posters and videos) for healthcare workers, specifically on the safe donning and doffing of PPE. All documents developed are available on the website of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.

Outbreak Definitions

In 2012, the MoH appointed Dr. Doug Cochrane to review the situation with *Clostridium difficile* Infections (CDI) in the province, and to make recommendations for changes to address this emerging pathogen. His report recommended that there be standard definitions for declaring outbreaks within BC healthcare facilities. In April 2014, PICNet worked with a large, multi-disciplinary committee to develop outbreak definitions for both CDI and Carbapenemase-producing Organisms (CPO). The CPO outbreak definitions were incorporated into an updated CPO Toolkit that was released in September 2014. The CDI outbreak definitions will be incorporated into a revised CDI Toolkit scheduled for released in FY 2015/16.

Carbapenemase Producing Organisms (CPO) Project

In 2012, PICNet created a Toolkit for Carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative organisms. Following the global increase of CPO in recent years and an outbreak in one BC hospital in February 2014, PICNet struck an extraordinary working group to address this. The group's work included the development of protocols for provincial active surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, and infection prevention and control (IPC). After the updated toolkit was published, the MoH released a communiqué requiring all health authorities to participate in an enhanced surveillance initiative. The data are already being submitted to PICNet, and the first public reporting of CPO cases in acute care facilities will commence in fiscal year (FY) 2015/16.

VRE Evaluation

At the request of the MoH, PICNet has been working closely with members of our Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC) and partners in the health authorities to develop a protocol for evaluating the impact of Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE) policy changes within several health authorities in BC. Much work has already been done in the HAs that have made the policy changes (Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal, and Island Health) in evaluating the impact. A

provincial report consolidating the results of these evaluations will be compiled and published in FY 2015/16.

Foot Care Equipment Reprocessing Discussion Paper

At the request of the MoH, PICNet undertook a project to evaluate the risk of infections from foot care equipment that is used on multiple patients in the hospital and community settings. PICNet struck a working group, and beginning with creating a standardized definition of what foot care entails and ensuring that it meets the scope of practice of the healthcare professionals who provide this service, the group reviewed all available literature pertaining to foot care and infections. They reached consensus on recommendations for reprocessing foot care equipment according to its intended use; the discussion document has been forwarded to the MoH.

Quick-Reference Guide for Residential Care

In 2011, PICNet created a comprehensive document “Residential Care Infection Prevention and Control Manual for Non-Affiliated Sites.” Requests have since been made by several Community of Practice members for a simplified document or other educational resource targeted at point-of-care staff rather than ICPs or Directors of Care. In 2014, PICNet created a Quick Reference Guide to provide basic infection prevention and control information to residential care staff in a concise and easy-to-assimilate format. Feedback on this new resource has been extremely positive.



APIC Chapter on Infection Control in Ambulatory Settings

Joanne Archer and Bruce Gamage co-authored a chapter in the APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology, a textbook published by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). The work consisted of revising a previous chapter that had been co-authored with Dr. Bonnie Henry for IPC in physicians’ offices, and expanding it to include all ambulatory care settings. The APIC Text is used by ICPs across North America and in some parts of Europe, and is used as the standard of practice for all IPC professionals that are certified under the Certification Board for Infection Control.

Clean Shots Photo Contest

PICNet was one of the key players in the provincial “Clean Shots” hand hygiene photo contest, a collaboration between the health authorities and the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council (BCPSQC) to raise awareness around hand hygiene and promote World Hand Hygiene Day. PICNet hosted the contest on its website, undertaking all the technical development work. The contest was a huge success, with more than 1000 photos submitted from across BC. In addition, the contest received national recognition: it was chosen by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) as the best hand hygiene initiative from across the country. You can read more about the contest in the Communications section of this report.

Practice Guidelines

Under the leadership of Education and Practices Coordinator Joanne Archer, PICNet develops evidence-based practice guidelines at the request of the CoP and the MoH. Guidelines are developed by a group of experts with representation from each health authority, using a rigorous development process. All PICNet guidelines undergo a review cycle every four to five years to ensure that they contain the most up-to-date, evidence-based recommendations. While PICNet guidelines are developed for use in BC, they are also recognized and used nationally and internationally.

Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Providing Healthcare to Clients Living in the Community

This guideline was updated and revised from its original document developed in 2009. The original document had been created prior to the development of PICNet's rigorous guidelines development process. This new process was used in updating the current guidelines.

Wound Care Guidelines

PICNet was consulted by the BC Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee on their protocol for dressing changes in community and ambulatory care settings. PICNet, in collaboration with wound clinicians from the six health authorities, developed guidelines for safely storing dressings, a practice that has been going on for some time but without clear guidelines. Not only will this keep patients safe, it will also reduce costs. The document is available to all health authorities for wound care nurses; the protocol would be applied for all nurses doing dressing changes in ambulatory or community settings. PICNet has also submitted an abstract to IPAC-Canada conference in June 2015 on this work.



Toolkits

CDI Toolkit for Residential Care

In 2013, PICNet developed a toolkit for the management of CDI cases in acute healthcare settings. This included IPC protocols, outbreak prevention tools, and patient treatment guidelines. After the release of the toolkit, the MoH requested that PICNet develop a similar toolkit targeted specifically at residential and long-term care facilities in the province. PICNet struck a multi-disciplinary working group and adapted the existing toolkit to address the specific needs of the residential care setting. This revised toolkit has been submitted to the MoH for their approval. This toolkit specifically included trigger tools and management processes for CDI cases as well as updated recommendations on outbreak management, including definitions and reporting. The MoH has requested that PICNet also update the toolkit for acute care settings to reflect these changes; this work will be undertaken in 2015/16.

Surveillance



In 2014–2015, under the leadership of Surveillance Epidemiologist Dr. Guanghong Han, PICNet has undertaken ongoing enhancement of its surveillance system. PICNet and its Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC) have reviewed its surveillance protocols to make sure the data being collected are as accurate as possible. This year, the SSC was expanded to include more representatives from Medical Microbiology, Operations, and Infection Prevention and Control, to ensure that the committee is representative of our CoP. PICNet also recruited a new Surveillance Systems Coordinator to assist in the ongoing expansion and improvement of our provincial HAI surveillance program, which continues to be recognized as a valuable asset to both the HAs and the MoH. In addition, work has begun on an interactive web-based map to make the surveillance data more easily accessible. The map is described in more detail in our Website section on page 25.

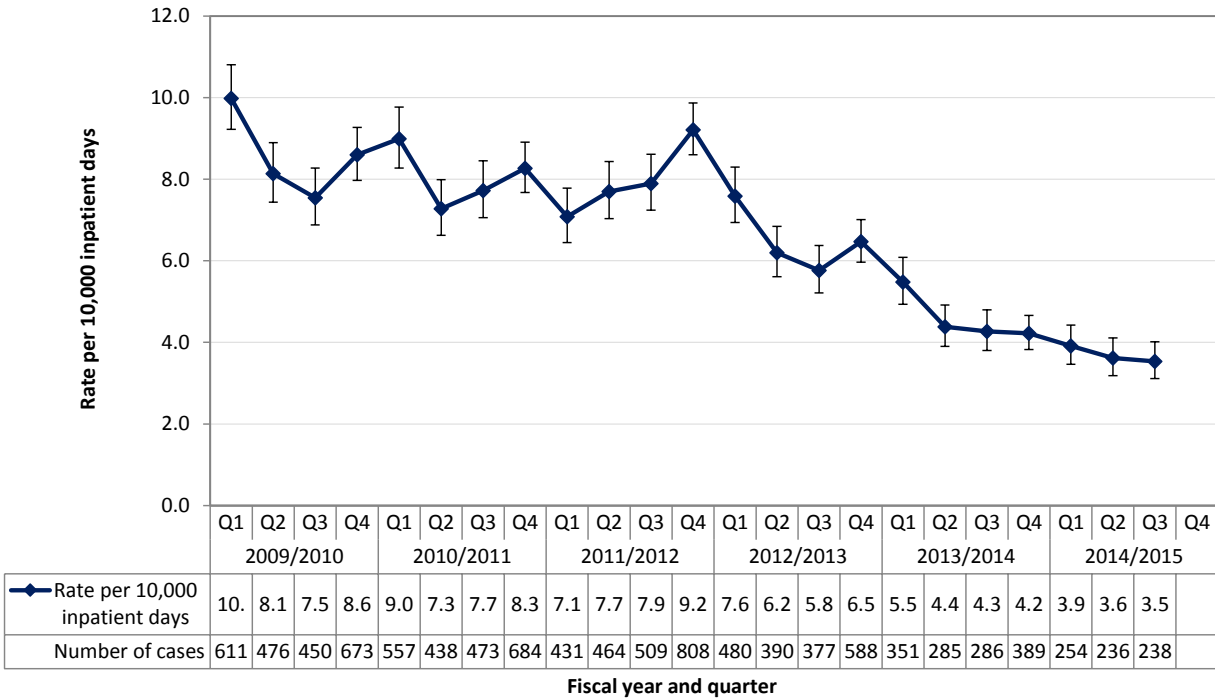
CPO Surveillance

Since CPO has been recognized as an emerging organism causing infections in BC hospitals, PICNet has undertaken an enhanced surveillance protocol to include this organism. Working in collaboration with the HAs and the BC Public Health and Microbiology Reference Library (BCPHMRL), PICNet has been collecting detailed laboratory and epidemiological information on all cases in BC acute care hospitals identified from July 2014 onwards. These data will be analyzed in collaboration with our SSC and the BCPHMRL, and a report will be made publicly available. Enhanced surveillance information will be shared with our HA partners in order to improve the prevention and control of these infections. This enhanced surveillance program will be evaluated after one year of implementation to ensure that all data being collected are accurate and valuable.

CDI Surveillance

The latest CDI update was published in March 2015 (Quarter 3 of FY 2014/2015). The graph below shows the steady decrease in the number of new cases and rate of CDI associated with the reporting facility since provincial surveillance began in FY 2009/2010. This decreasing trend is statistically significant. (The full report can be accessed at <http://s.picnet.ca/cdireports>). The annual surveillance report for CDI is expected to be posted in September 2015.

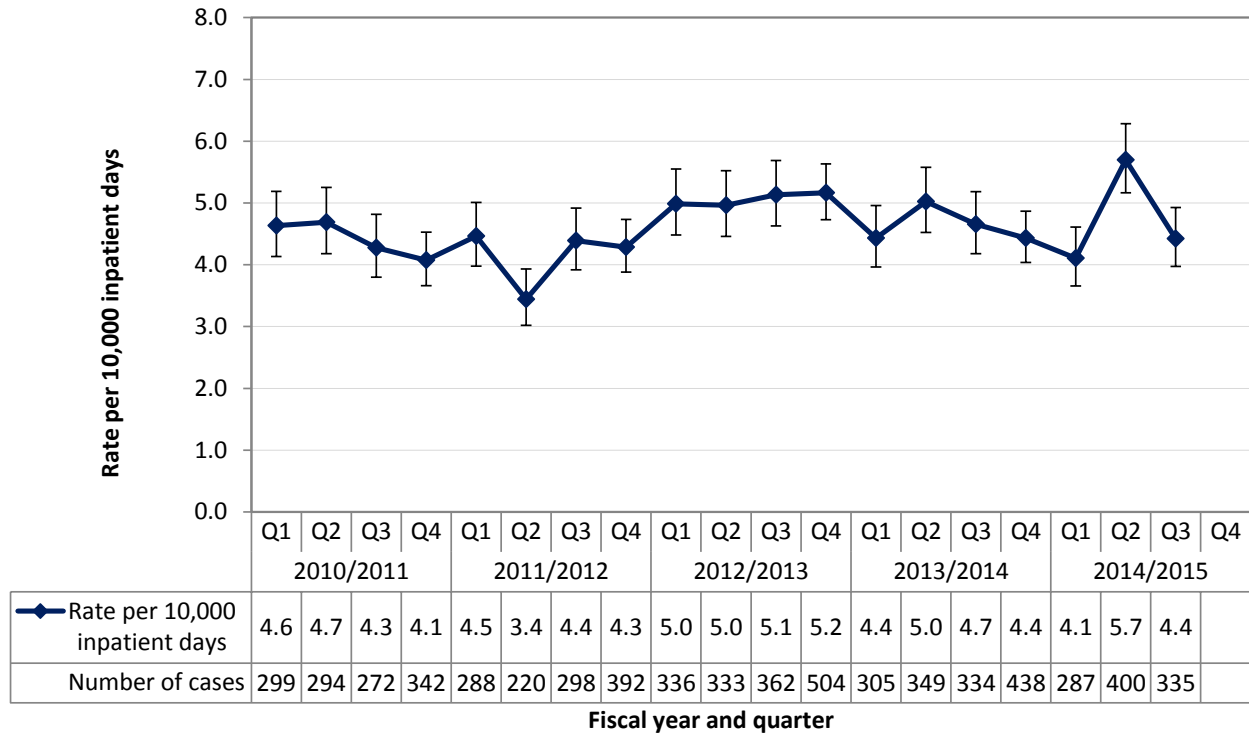
New CDI cases in BC Acute Care Hospitals



MRSA Surveillance

The latest MRSA update was published in March 2015 (Quarter 3 of FY 2014/2015). The graph below shows the number of new cases and rate of MRSA associated with the reporting facility by fiscal year and quarter in BC. (The full report can be accessed at <http://s.picnet.ca/mrsareports>.) As shown in the graph, the rate of MRSA has remained relatively stable over the reporting period, although it fluctuated in some periods. The annual surveillance report for MRSA is expected to be posted in September 2015.

New MRSA cases in BC Acute Care Hospitals



Hand Hygiene Compliance

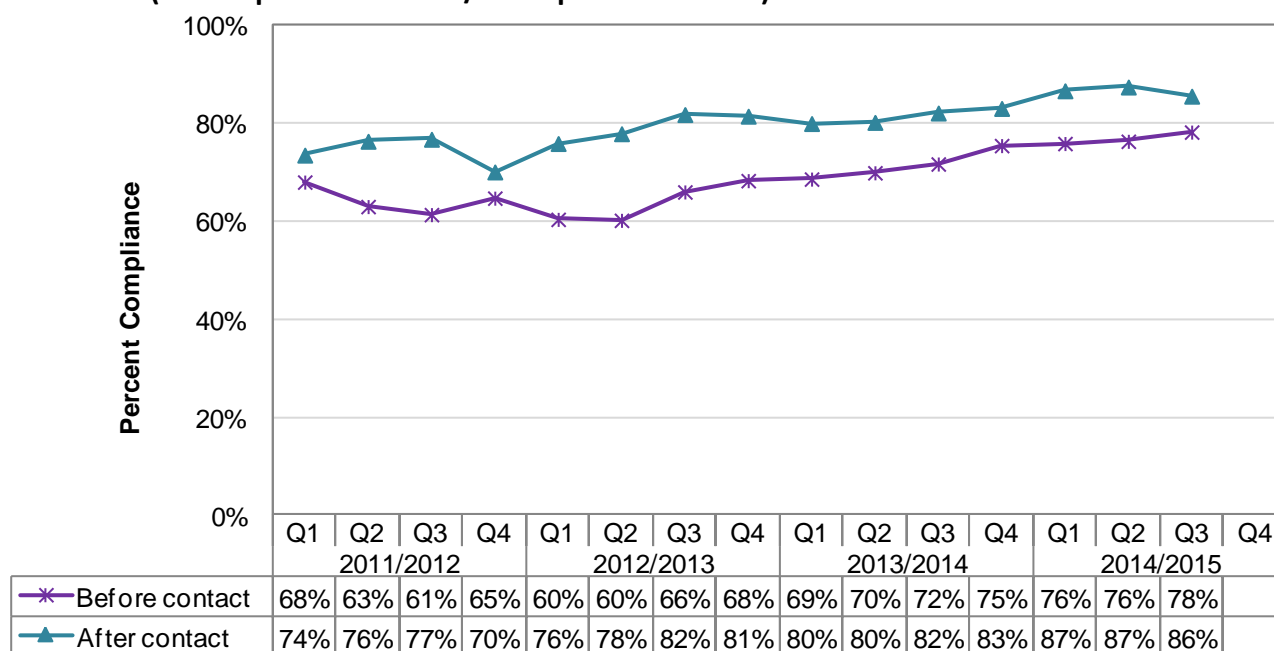
Frequent and proper hand hygiene is the cornerstone for preventing the transmission of healthcare-associated infections. Since September 2010, PICNet has been working with the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG) to develop and implement a provincial program for the promotion of hand hygiene in all healthcare settings. Standardized auditing of hand hygiene compliance rates among healthcare providers in acute care facilities began in 2011.

In collaboration with PHHWG, PICNet collects audit data on behalf of the province, conducts analyses, and prepares consolidated provincial reports. These data have been publicly reported since 2012.

The provincial hand cleaning compliance rate increased gradually in each quarterly audit cycle during the past three fiscal years, and in Q1 of FY 2014/2015, exceeded the goal of 80% set by the PHHWG. There is still work to be done, however; while hand hygiene rates are above 80% for hand cleaning opportunities after patient contact, they are still below 80% for hand cleaning opportunities before patient contact, and the compliance is still lower among physicians than other healthcare workers.

The full report can be accessed at <http://s.picnet.ca/hhreports>.

Provincial hand cleaning compliance by healthcare workers in acute care facilities, by “moment” (before patient contact / after patient contact)



Education

Healthcare professionals are required to undertake continuing education every year. PICNet provides education resources and opportunities, such as the PICNet conference, online modules, and the Webber Teleclass lecture series, that can be used by healthcare providers to fulfill their continuing professional development requirements. PICNet’s education resources are accessible by healthcare providers from across the continuum of care. PICNet also provides in-services to specific healthcare provider groups and education institutes upon request.

Joanne Archer mentored fourth-year nursing students’ practicums in which they studied outbreak management and immunizations for large group events, and created an outbreak management plan for the Canada Winter Games Athletes’ Medical Services.

PICNet Educational Conference

In the fiscal year 2014–2015, PICNet hosted its eighth annual educational conference. The 2015 conference took place in March, in Richmond, BC. There were 120 delegates in attendance, 13 speakers, and 26 exhibitors. Full details of the conference, including videos of the presentations, can be found at <http://s.picnet.ca/conference2015>.

CDI/CPO Symposium

In March 2014, PICNet hosted a provincial meeting to address outbreaks of Carbapenemase producing organisms (CPO) and *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI), and to develop strategies for their prevention and control. Since that time, the health authorities and PICNet’s CoP developed surveillance strategies, prevention and control toolkits, treatment algorithms, and education for healthcare providers. PICNet, in collaboration with BCPHMRL, hosted an academic symposium in March 2015 to discuss the most recent developments surrounding CDI and CPO. Members of PICNet’s CoP came together to share their knowledge regarding surveillance results, new treatments, and new approaches. There were ten presentations during the day-long event, and videos were made available to PICNet’s CoP so that those who were unable to attend could view the presentations online. The symposium program and video links can be found at <http://s.picnet.ca/cposymposium>.

“The symposium was fantastic, and I certainly learned a lot and appreciate the time and effort to organize and prepare such a venue for interdisciplinary learning and sharing.”

“What a good job the team did pulling this together. I thought it was as good as or better than some IDSA symposia, and so relevant because it included our provincial data and put it in context for all.”

Education Resource Fund

Consistent with its role in supporting infection prevention and control education and training, PICNet continues to administer an Education Resource Fund. This fund provides educational grants to members of the CoP, which consists of all healthcare professionals in BC involved in infection prevention and control. Members of the CoP may apply to receive up to \$1,000 annually to support their attendance at a conference, meeting, or other educational activity of their choice. Based on specific criteria, a panel of three members of PICNet’s Advisory Committee scored the applications and decided upon the minimum score for funding. In 2014–2015, PICNet was able to provide funding for 13 members of the CoP to attend conferences. The grant recipients are listed in Appendix E:

In-Services and Presentations

PICNet staff gave several in-services and conference presentations during 2014–2015:

PICNet 2015 Educational Conference: presentation on CPOs	Network Manager
Infection Control Week in-services	
Chief Nursing Officers of BC; presentation on PICNet goals and objectives	Education and Practices Coordinator
PICNet 2015 Educational Conference: presentation on PHAC’s Critical Appraisal Toolkit for evaluating research literature	
College of New Caledonia: several in-services on Infection Prevention and Control to Nursing students	
College of Dental Hygienists: presentation on infection control practices in dental settings	
College of Laboratory Assistants: presentation on routine practices in laboratory settings	
College of New Caledonia; Presentation on infectious disease and the immune system for health science class	Communications Officer
IPAC-Canada Conference: presentation on PICNet’s “Let’s Go Viral!” workshop development	
Infection Control Week in-services	

At the IPAC-Canada conference in June 2014, Helen Evans gave a presentation on the Let’s Go Viral! educational workshop, which was developed by the entire PICNet team, and won the award for Best Oral Presentation.



Webber Training

Webber Teleclass Education is an international series of lectures on infection prevention and control topics. Its objective is to bring the best possible infection prevention and control information to the widest possible audience, with the fewest barriers to access.

The Webber Training service is purchased annually by PICNet, and made available to CoP members who have registered for this professional development and educational service. In 2014–2015, a total of 38 teleclasses were broadcast and/or made available online after the broadcast.



Communications

Clean Shots Photo Contest

World Hand Hygiene Day takes place every year on May 5th. In 2014, there was interest from the health authorities, PICNet, BCPSQC, the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG)'s communications committee, and the Health Quality Network (HQN)'s communications group in collaborating on a provincial event for World Hand Hygiene Day. A provincial photo contest was suggested, and with support from all parties, a planning committee was formed to create the online contest that would be open to all healthcare professionals in British Columbia. PICNet offered to host the contest on its website, and PICNet's web developers created a photo upload and review platform. The planning committee arranged prizes, created promotional material, and reviewed every photo as it came in to ensure privacy standards were met. The contest was launched in April, and ran for five weeks. More than 1,000 photos were received, making the contest a great success in building enthusiasm and promoting hand hygiene.

National Recognition

PICNet's Communications Officer submitted the initiative as an entry to the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI)'s "What's Your Hand in It?" national contest, which was looking for the best hand hygiene initiative from across the country. The Clean Shots contest won. In February 2015, CPSI approached PICNet to ask if the Clean Shots planning committee would like to collaborate with CPSI on running the contest nationally. The group provided input and recommendations to CPSI, and on April 1, 2015, CPSI launched the national version of Clean Shots.



Infection Control Week

Planning and Communications Toolkit

National Infection Control Week takes place every October, and PICNet provides resources that all BC healthcare professionals can use. PICNet had received feedback from its Community of Practice that many ICPs and Directors of Care would like to have displays or events for Infection Control Week, but did not have the time to put these together. To meet this need, PICNet developed an Infection Control Week Planning and Communications Toolkit that provides ideas for 25 different activities, cost/effort estimates for all these activities, a planning timeline template, and communications templates. The document is downloadable from the PICNet website.



Residential Care Visits

In October and November 2014, PICNet visited six residential care facilities with the newly revised “Let’s Go Viral!” infection control workshop. The workshop was again extremely well received.

“Thanks so much for coming to KinVillage. I received a number of positive comments about the session from staff including “It was a very good reminder in a fun and interactive way!”, “I retain information when it is done in a fun way” and “What a great session!” I plan to order a training kit.”



Let's Go Viral!

PICNet's "Let's Go Viral!" Educational Game Kit continues to be made available for purchase or download. The game was updated in 2014 to make it even more interactive, and to incorporate more questions/education around personal protective equipment (PPE). The instructional online videos were also updated.

"I just wanted to let you know that we finished doing the Let's Go Viral program about 30 minutes ago and it was WONDERFUL! I've started to use it in my bi-monthly orientation classes for new hires and anniversary staff.

Both teams had such a good time and I truly feel the lessons they learned are going to be remembered. Some of it was a review of existing knowledge and for some, it was totally new. They actually got quite competitive and I loved the energy going on in the room! Thank you so much for developing a fun way for folks to learn."



The "Let's Go Viral" workshop in-a-box

PICNet Infection Control Calendar

In December 2014, PICNet published its sixth annual infection control educational calendar. Demand for the PICNet calendars has been growing each year, and requests for this year's calendar were received from across Canada. The 2015 calendar featured many of the photos submitted to the provincial Clean Shots contest, and calendars were sent to all those whose photos were incorporated.



PICNet Website

The PICNet website continues to be modified to keep up to date with current technologies, provincial and federal legislation, and to best meet the needs of the CoP. Following a technical review by PHSA, the PICNet website was migrated to a new platform (Wordpress), as the previous technology was out of date. PICNet’s Communications Officer took this opportunity to reorganize the website. The homepage now features many more links, to make it easier for users to find the most recent and most-searched items; in addition, there is a new Guidelines and Toolkits section, with the relevant documents organized by infection type or area of practice.

PICNet
PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

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CPO Symposium: presentation videos

Videos of the CPO Symposium on March 25 are available to PICNet's Community of Practice.

READ MORE

What's New

- > The Clean Shots photo contest is open! Enter by May 5th
- > PHAC's Critical Appraisal Toolkit for evaluating research literature
- > Presentation slides and videos from the PICNet 2015 Educational Conference
- > Northern Health is looking for a Regional Manager, Communicable Diseases

Upcoming Events

- > PICNet is hosting a teleclass on Ebola on April 24th.
- > The Wall Exchange presents The Secret, Social Lives of Bacteria on May 26 at the Vogue Theatre, Vancouver
- > The IPAC-Canada conference takes place June 14-17 in Victoria, BC.

Latest Reports

- > CDI Surveillance update: Q3 of Fiscal year 2014/15
- > MRSA Surveillance update: Q3 of Fiscal year 2014/15
- > Hand hygiene compliance: Q3 of 2014/15

Infection Control Resources

- > Infection Control Posters
- > PICNet 2015 Calendars
- > Quick-Reference Booklet for Residential Care
- > Let's Go Viral! workshop in-a-box: 2014 edition

Guidelines & Toolkits

- > Carbapenemase Producing Organisms (CPO) Toolkit
- > Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (ARO) Guidelines
- > Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) Toolkit

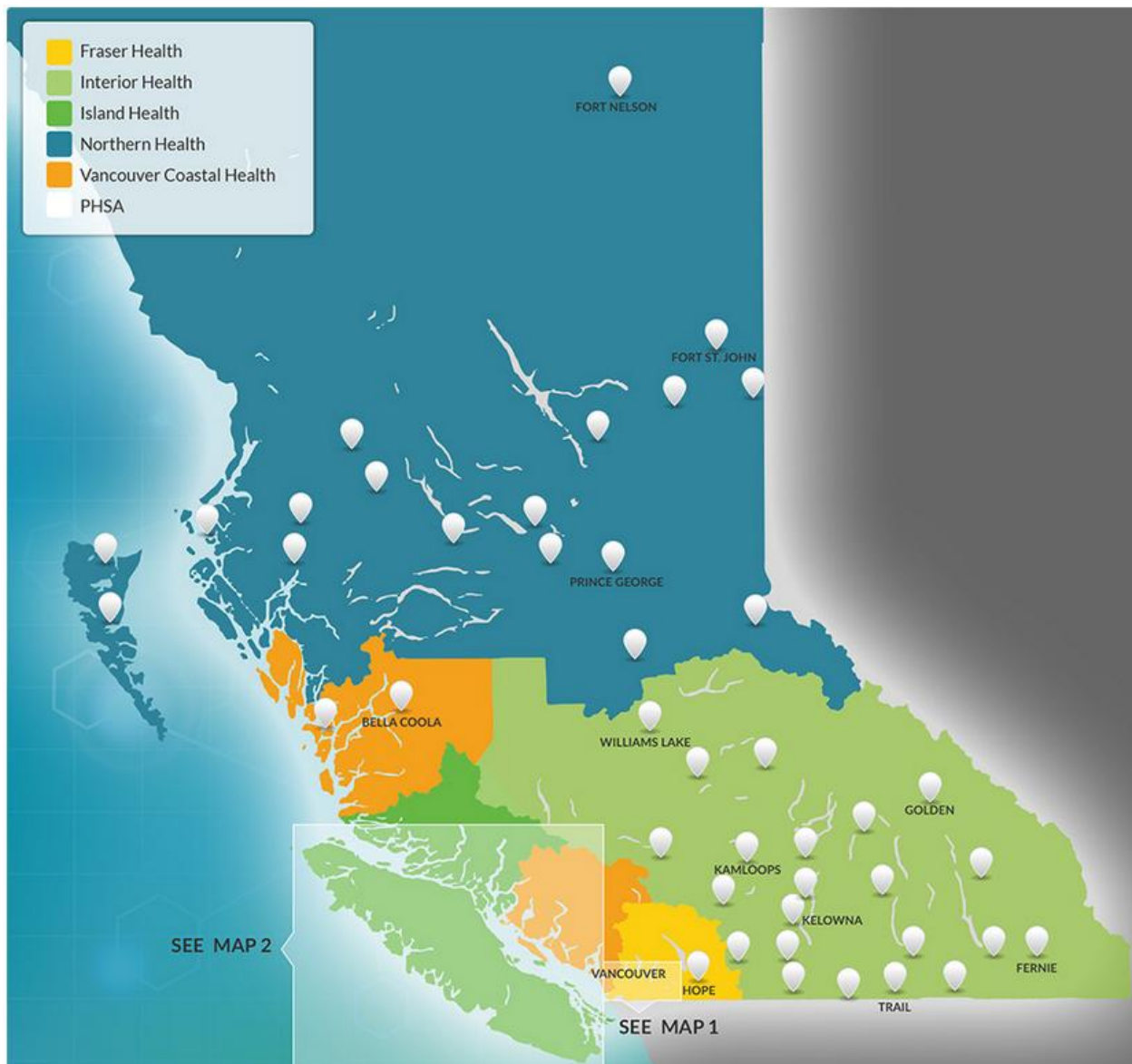
Webber Teleclasses

- > Apr 9: Feces management: Time to address the risks
- > Apr 16: A pragmatic approach to IPAC guidelines in an ambulatory care setting
- > Apr 30: Are wipes (towelettes) effective for surface decontamination in healthcare settings?

Provincial surveillance map

A member of PICNet’s SOAC requested that PICNet’s surveillance data be made more easily accessible, because the data can be viewed only by downloading PICNet’s quarterly or annual reports, in PDF format. The new suggested (additional) format is an interactive web-based map of BC, where users can hover over the acute care site locations and see the data for each site.

Web development work began in November 2014, with the map launch scheduled for spring 2015. Below is a screenshot of the map. (Since the publication of this report, the map has been launched: <https://www.picnet.ca/surveillance/interactive-map/>)



PICNet on POD and Social Media

PICNet has been working more closely with PHSA Corporate Communications in the past few years, and as part of PHSA's updates of the POD, PICNet now has a POD page. In addition, PICNet has been more active in posting stories on the POD and in the weekly PHSA e-newsletter, and has recently been working with PHSA's Digital Engagement Specialist to make better use of PHSA's social media platforms to disseminate information and promote events.

The screenshot shows the PHSA On Demand (POD) website. At the top, the logo 'pod' is displayed in white on a yellow background, with 'PHSA ON DEMAND' written below it. A navigation bar contains links for Home, News, Events, PHSA Directory, Classifieds, HC Share, Jobs, and Policies. Below the navigation bar is a promotional banner for a 'World Hand Hygiene Day photo contest'. The banner features three polaroid-style photos: 'Selfie' (a person in a blue scrub top), 'Friendie' (two people in scrubs), and 'Photobomb' (a person in scrubs). To the right of the photos, the text reads: 'Are you photohygienic? Snap a selfie or photobomb and enter to win in our World Hand Hygiene Day photo contest! www.picnet.ca/cleanshots'. Below the banner are four small circular icons.

POD Main Categories

About PHSA

Budget and Accountability,
Conversations: Leader's Blog,
Corporate Services ...

Computers, Phones & Technology

Applications (Clinical & Business),
Google Chrome, Information Security
...

Hiring & Managing

Attendance Promotion, Casual
Availability & Registries, Classification
Job Description Templates & Non

Partnerships and Participation in Provincial and National Groups

Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group

PICNet staff continues play important roles in the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG) and its sub-committees. PICNet supports the collection, analysis, and public reporting of provincial hand cleaning compliance rates in acute care facilities. In 2014, data collection began for long-term care facilities, with public reporting commencing in spring 2015.



Infection Prevention and Control-Canada

Bruce Gamage, Network Manager, completed the second year of his term as president of Infection Prevention and Control-Canada (IPAC-Canada), the national infection prevention and control association. Highlights included representing Canada at the IPS UK conference in Glasgow.



Joanne Archer, PICNet Education and Practices Coordinator, is currently the scientific co-chair for the 2015 IPAC-Canada national conference, and will be the 2016 scientific chair for the IPAC-Canada national conference.

National ARO Prevalence Survey

Guanghong Han, Surveillance Epidemiologist, was a representative of IPAC-Canada on the study team of the National ARO Prevalence Survey until October 2014. He was involved in reviewing study protocols, recruiting hospitals, providing advice in data analysis, and reviewing papers for peer-reviewed publishing.

Committees, Working Groups, and Conferences

PICNet staff have representation on many local, provincial, and national committees:

Provincial Antibiotic Stewardship Clinical Expert Group (PICNet Rep)	Network Manager
Pandemic Stock Management Provincial Working Group (PICNet Rep)	
Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PICNet Rep)	
IPAC-Canada Board of Directors (President 2014/2015)	
Certification Board of Infection Control (Canadian Representative on Board)	
Editorial Board for the Canadian Journal of Infection Control	Education and Best Practices Coordinator
Standing member of the Northern Health Authority Regional Infection Control Committee	
Member of BC Provincial Tuberculosis Nurse Advisory Committee	
Member Provincial Pandemic Stockpile Management Working Group	
Co-chair IPAC National Conference Scientific Committee	

PICNet Surveillance Steering Committee (Co-Chair)	Surveillance Epidemiologist
PHHWG Evaluation Sub-Committee	
IPAC Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group	
PHHWG Communications Sub-Working Group	Communications Officer
Health Quality Network Communications Committee	
Clean Shots Planning Committee	

Patient Representative Partnerships

PICNet has been exploring ways to involve patients in some of our processes and education material development. We have established a few key contacts within the patient population who have provided feedback on several projects and initiatives. Ms. Carolyn Canfield was awarded the Individual Patient Champion award by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, in part because of her work with PICNet who nominated her for this award.

Appendices

Appendix A: PICNet Priority Projects – Annual Deliverables 2014/2015

Project Priority	Deliverable	Status
1. Develop provincial strategy for the surveillance of CPO	Case definition, outbreak definition, surveillance criteria and process, patient transfer communication protocol	Complete
2. Expand the provincial surveillance program to include CPO	Begin data submission for incidence of CPO in BC by the health authorities to PICNet	Complete
3. Evaluation of the impact of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) Policy Changes in some health authorities	A report that evaluates the impact of VRE policy changes on VRE rates and specific patient outcomes	Ongoing
4. Expand current CDI Toolkit	Expand the current CDI Toolkit to include an outbreak definition for all facilities and specific recommendations for residential care settings.	Complete
5. Practices for reprocessing reusable foot care instruments	Practice recommendations for reprocessing of reusable foot care instruments	Complete
6. Home and community care guidelines	Updated guideline approved and posted to PICNet website	Complete
7. Enhanced surveillance reports for CDI and MRSA	Enhanced surveillance report for CDI and MRSA that include value-added trends of both infection and complication rates over time.	Ongoing
8. Expand provincial surveillance program to include central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) in the intensive care unit	Protocol for provincial surveillance of CLABSI in the intensive care unit	Cancelled by MoH

Appendix B: Alignment with Ministry Strategies

The following table summarizes the ways in which PICNet programs and activities are aligned with Ministry of Health strategies.

Ministry of Health Strategies	PICNet Activities
Strategy 2: Accountability	
Health Authorities: Comprehensive and timely reporting on performance across the continuum of services.	Hand hygiene is one of the CCM's quality indicators; PICNet provides provincial reports. Also provincial reporting of CDI, MRSA and CPO through PICNet helps the HAs meet the reporting requirement as per the ministry policy communiqués. Leads to increased transparency, accountability and improves patient outcomes.
Physicians: Ensure effective engagement with government... on the development and implementation of policies that promote... the best standard of care for patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PICNet's Scientific Operations Advisory Committee is multi-disciplinary and has representation from specific areas (physicians, infectious diseases, medical microbiologists, etc.). ● We ensure that our working groups are multi-disciplinary so that we have representation from point-of-care professionals (physicians, nurses) and that those who will be affected by our guidelines have input. ● Following presentations or conferences, we ask for direct feedback on how to improve. ● We ask our Community of Practice what their needs are so that our resources are focused on the input we receive from point-of-care staff.
Nursing and Allied Health Staff: Ensure nurses and allied health professionals have a constructive voice and accountability in the provision of health care in each community and health care facility in B.C. based on a commitment to ... quality care for patients.	
Nursing and Allied Health Staff: Ensure effective engagement with government and professional accountability on the development and implementation of policies that promote ... the best standard of care for patients.	
Health Support Staff: Ensure health support staff have a constructive voice and accountability in the provision of health care in each community and health care facility in B.C. based on a commitment to ... quality care for patients.	
Health Support Staff: Ensure effective engagement with government and professional accountability on the development and implementation of policies that promote ... the best standard of care for patients.	

Ministry of Health Strategies	PICNet Activities
Strategy 3: Quality	
<p>Establish a guideline-driven clinical care management system to improve the quality, safety and consistency of key clinical services and to improve patient experience of care.</p>	<p>PICNet’s guidelines are based on the most robust available evidence. Our toolkits assist in the implementation of these guidelines, to ensure this information is translated into better patient care.</p>
Strategy 4: Skilled Change Management	
<p>Ensure timely, open communication and engagement with the health workforce during the change management process.</p>	<p>PICNet provides provincial support for the health authorities as they implement our guidelines into practice. Also we provide a provincial forum to discuss key IC issues and allow direct point-of-care staff to have input into policy decisions.</p>
Strategy 5: Health Human Resources	
<p>Continue to develop and strengthen professional development and quality assurance mechanisms.</p>	<p>All PICNet educational activities: online modules, conferences, symposia, site visits, downloadable resources.</p>
<p>Develop a provincial engagement, influence and accountability framework in collaboration with health authorities ... to support the creation of inclusive, vibrant and healthy workplaces across the health sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure rigorous discussion with physicians, nurses, allied health workers, and health support workforce staff about health care practices and change. 	<p>PICNet solicits two-way communications with our Community of Practice. Whenever a new report, guideline, or resource comes out, we ask for direct feedback from our CoP. As above - we provide a provincial forum for discussion and input on provincial IC policy.</p>
Strategy 6: Information Management and Technology	
<p>Build informatics capacity to use data to enhance decision-making and improve outcomes at all levels of the system</p>	<p>Surveillance: PICNet works with the health authorities to standardize the quality of the surveillance data and the way it is presented. This provides decision-makers in the HA Executive and Ministry of Health with high quality data.</p>

Appendix C: Glossary of Acronyms

APIC	Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
BC	British Columbia
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
BCPHMRL	BC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory
CCM	Clinical Care Management
CDI	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection
CoP	Community of Practice
CPO	Carbapenemase -producing organisms
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
HAI	Healthcare-associated infection
ICP	Infection Control Professional/Practitioner
IPAC-Canada	Infection Prevention and Control Canada (formerly CHICA [Community and Hospital Infection Control Association–Canada])
MoH	Ministry of Health
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
PHHWG	Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group
PHSA	Provincial Health Services Authority
PICNet	Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SOAC	Scientific Operations Advisory Committee
SSC	Surveillance Steering Committee
VRE	Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci

Appendix D: PICNet Committee Membership

PICNet would like to acknowledge and thank each health authority, as well as the various professional organizations, for their support and contributions to the PICNet Advisory Committee. It is the collective expertise and commitment of our partners within these organizations that truly drives PICNet and it is with much appreciation that we recognize this.

Scientific Operations Advisory Committee

Capacity	Representative of	Member	Job Title
Operations	Interior Health	Janice De Heer (Chair)	Corporate Director, Infection Prevention and Control
	Fraser Health	Petra Welsh	Director, Infection Prevention and Control
	Island Health	Valerie Wood	Director, Infection Prevention and Control
	Ministry of Health	Brian Sagar	Director, Patient Safety, MoH
	Northern Health	Deanna Hembroff	Regional Manager, Infection Prevention and Control
	PHSA	Dr. Jocelyn Srigley	Director, Infection Prevention and Control
	Vancouver Coastal Health	Linda Dempster	Executive Director, Quality, Patient Safety and Infection Control
	First Nations Health Authority	Donna Lawrence	Director Health Protection
Scientific	Hospital Epidemiologist	Dr. Elisa Lloyd-Smith	Surveillance Epidemiologist, Providence Healthcare
	Infection Control Professional	Robyn Hunter	Coordinator, Infection Prevention and Control, PHSA
	Infection Control Professional	Kelsey Breault	Infection Control Practitioner, NHA
	Infectious Diseases	(vacant)	
	Medical Microbiologist	Dr. Diane Roscoe	Division Head, Medical Microbiology and Infection Control, VCH
	Medical Microbiologist	Dr. Benjamin Mack	Medical Microbiologist, FHA
	Occupational Health and Safety	Dave Keen	Occupational Health Director, FHA
	Public Health	Dr. Bonnie Henry	Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Health
Non-Voting Members	PICNet	Dr. Judith Isaac-Renton	PICNet Co-Director; Public Health Laboratory Director, Laboratory Services, BCCDC

Capacity	Representative of	Member	Job Title
	PICNet	Dr. Elizabeth Bryce	PICNet Co-Director; Regional Medical Director of Infection Control and Medical Microbiology, VCH; Clinical Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UBC
	PICNet	Bruce Gamage	Network Manager
	PICNet	Joanne Archer	Education and Practice Coordinator

Surveillance Steering Committee

The Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC) provides guidance to PICNet’s HAI surveillance programs, and assists PICNet in the implementation of standardized surveillance practices among participating parties. This Committee also assists PICNet in processes related to the provincial collection of summary data, and reporting of trends over time.

PICNet would like to thank the Surveillance Steering Committee for their hard work this past year.

Member	Affiliation
Dr. Guanghong Han (Co-Chair)	PICNet
Bruce Gamage (Co-Chair)	PICNet
Jun Chen Collet	Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. Peter Tilley	Provincial Health Services Authority
Kelsi Laporte	Provincial Health Services Authority (now with Providence Health Care , part of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
Tara Donovan	Fraser Health Authority
Dr. Manal Tadros	Fraser Health Authority
Leslie Forrester	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Lisa Harris	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Dr. Elisa Lloyd-Smith	Providence Health Care (part of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
Deanna Hembroff	Northern Health Authority
Dr. Randall Dumont	Northern Health Authority
Diana George	Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. Linda Hoang	Provincial Health Services Authority
Anthony Leamon	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Valerie Wood	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Dr. Pamela Kibsey	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Dr. Julie Mori	Interior Health Authority
Dr. Bing Wang	Interior Health Authority
Kelly Dillon	Interior Health Authority

Guidelines Steering Committee

The Guidelines Steering Committee (GSC) ensures that PICNet’s guidelines are based on the most appropriate methodology and the best available research. The GSC provides direction and assistance to Guideline Working Groups by determining the most appropriate use of research.

Responsibilities of the GSC are to:

- review guideline proposals to identify priority guidelines for development
- review appraisals of existing guidelines created by PICNet
- define the scope and purpose of guidelines for development
- participate in the initial steps of literature review and refine key questions
- advise on membership selection for Guideline Working Groups
- review the progress of guidelines in development to ensure transparency and due diligence in use of evidence and the guideline development process
- review completed guidelines for appropriate use of evidence and the GWG responses to comments received from the Community of Practice during consultation.

Member	Affiliation
Joanne Archer (Chair)	PICNet
Brian Sagar	Ministry of Health
Linda Dempster	Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. George Astrakianakis	University of British Columbia
Janice de Heer	Interior Health Authority
Felicia Laing	Vancouver Coastal Health

Education Steering Committee

The PICNet Education Steering Committee (ESC) provides guidance to PICNet’s educational projects and programs, including advice on the development of tools and resources that support the education and professional development of members of our Community of Practice. The ESC also assists in selecting the content and scope of PICNet’s educational conferences, and in the evaluation of PICNet educational projects and programs.

Member	Affiliation
Joanne Archer (Chair)	PICNet
Cynthia Monk	Northern Health Authority
Ted Pincock	Providence Health Care
Isobel McDonald	BC First Nations and Inuit Health
Kimberly Mallory	Provincial Health Services Authority
Hugo Monge	Vancouver Coastal Health
Samira Kermanchi	Fraser Health Authority

Appendix E: 2014/15 Education Resource Fund Recipients

Name	Job Title	Organization	HA
Joanne Andrew	ICP	Island Health	IH
Kelsey Breault	ICP	Dawson Creek Hospital	NHA
Ellen Dashwood	ICP	Providence Health Care Infection Prevention and Control	VCH
Tara Donovan	Epidemiologist	Fraser Health Authority	FHA
Sandra Dunford	ICP	Island Health	IHA
Eleanor Elston	ICP	Victoria General Hospital	IH
Jacque Hlagi	ICP	Fraser Health Authority	FHA
Sanela Karac	RN	Yaletown House Society	VCH
Anthony Leamon	Epidemiologist	Island Health	IH
Beth McAskill	ICP	Bulkley Valley District Hospital-Smithers	NHA
Julie Mori	Epidemiologist	Infection Prevention and Control	IHA
Brenda Ryder	ICP	BCCA Prince George Centre for the North	PHSA
Fatma Taha	IC consultant	Fraser Health Authority	FHA

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