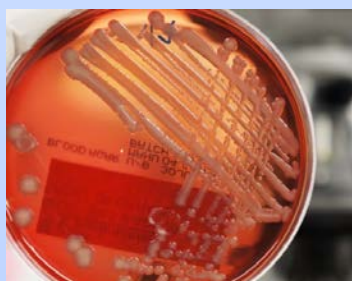


PICNet

PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

PICNet Annual Report April 2016–March 2017



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Executive Summary

The Provincial Infection Control Network of BC (PICNet) was formed in 2005 as a multi-disciplinary network to improve coordination of urgent/emergent infection control issues at a provincial level, and to establish a provincial surveillance system for healthcare-associated infections (HAI). It was also formed to provide education to the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) community of practice, as well as to produce practice guidelines that would standardize practices and enhance patient and staff safety. PICNet's strength is based on its ability to bring together the right people to participate in projects and initiatives proposed by its community of practice (CoP).

PICNet has built a reputation as the provincial source for infection control guidance and for providing accountability, transparency, and a forum for provincial discussion of infection control issues. Using the best available evidence, the CoP (which has representation from all the health authorities, the Ministry of Health, and related organizations) has developed a robust guideline development process, a quality HAI surveillance program, and a suite of educational resources.

This report presents a summary of the projects and initiatives that PICNet worked on during the fiscal year 2016/17.

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet's Education Steering Committee created a set of Provincial Precaution Signs that have been rolled out in the health authorities and are available on the PICNet website, while work continued on two other projects, the Provincial Infection Control Framework and the All Hazards Training. PICNet also posted provincial information to two issues related to outbreaks in the USA: the reprocessing of duodenoscopes used for ERCP, and *Mycobacterium chimaera* infections associated with 3T Heater-Cooler Systems. Finally, PICNet provided advice to the Ministry and health authorities regarding the cleaning and disinfection of ultrasound probes.

Guidelines and Toolkits

In 2016/17, PICNet's Gastrointestinal Outbreak guidelines were revised and updated by a multidisciplinary working group; the updated guidelines were posted in June 2016. Work continued on the provincial protocol for Fecal Microbiota Therapy (FMT) for recurrent *Clostridium difficile* illness (CDI).

Surveillance

Since CPO was made a reportable communicable disease in BC in December 2016, PICNet has been working with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Public Health Library (PHL) and the provincial Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee on the process of reporting CPO cases identified in the community. In addition, PICNet is collaborating with the PHL on a process for combining whole genome sequencing and epidemiological data to provide genomic surveillance of HAI outbreaks in BC. This project is funded by a Genome BC Grant.

PICNet and its Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC) have also participated in several other new initiatives: the health authorities' proposal to examine multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) screening compliance in BC acute care facilities; developing guidance for target-setting; an evaluation of electronic hand hygiene auditing; and a position statement on the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI)'s hospital infection data, that was scheduled to be published nationally in June 2017.

The MRSA, CDI, and Hand Cleaning Compliance programs continue.

Communications

Communications resources continue to be offered to healthcare professionals, such as a webinar hosted with IPAC-Canada, and a communications toolkit for Infection Control Week. More improvements have been made to the PICNet website to make its many resources easier to find.

Education

As part of our work towards supporting the Ministry of Health's "All-Hazard Personal Protection Training Framework" PICNet's Infection Control and Hand Hygiene online education module was replaced with two new modules for infection control education, one for healthcare workers involved in direct patient care, and one for those who do not do direct patient care (e.g. housekeeping, food services). An education module on the use of the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Critical Appraisal Toolkit, for the evaluation of research literature, was also completed and posted to the PHSA Learning Hub.

PICNet hosted its tenth annual educational conference in March 2017, and brought its educational workshop to several residential care facilities during national infection control week. In addition, a new learning partnership was established with UBC: PICNet now offers a course to medical students as part of UBC's new FLEX program.

Partnerships

PICNet continues to play a key role in the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG), with representation in the main PHHWG committee and in the Communications Sub Working Group. PICNet staff also continue to participate in other provincial and national committees.

PICNet Staff Changes

In October 2016, Bruce Gamage, who had been PICNet's Network Manager for more than ten years, was promoted to the position of Network Director.

Projects and Initiatives

Provincial Infection Control Framework

In its 2007 report, the Office of the Auditor General of BC identified a gap in the framework for infection prevention, surveillance and control across the continuum of care (residential care, acute care, mental health, public health and home and community care). The Office of the Auditor General recommended that the Ministry:

1. Establish and implement a provincial framework for infection prevention, surveillance and control which at a minimum contains: comprehensive legislation, defined roles and responsibilities, surveillance, standards and reporting.
2. Establish provincial surveillance for healthcare-associated infections and work with key stakeholders to determine what should be reported.

In 2016/17, work began on the creation of a provincial infection control framework document. PICNet completed a literature search and environmental scan that identified the main themes that will be included in the framework. A reference group was struck to confirm the themes in the draft document before beginning consultations with the infection prevention and control community of practice in 2017/18.

All Hazards Training

In 2016, the Ministry of Health issued a Health Care Worker All Hazard Personal Protection Training Framework. The framework contains five training components. The first three components cover basic training on routine practices, point of care risk assessment, selection and use of personal protective equipment and application of additional precautions.

These elements of the training framework were addressed by replacing PICNet's Provincial Infection Control and Hand Hygiene online education module with two new modules (see Education Section). Work will now begin on the fourth component of the framework: addressing training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for emerging pathogens.

Reprocessing of duodenoscopes used for ERCP

In April 2016, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) was notified of a few outbreaks in the USA related to duodenoscopes used for endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), the issue being with the "elevator mechanism" making effective cleaning a challenge. PHAC reviewed the issue and recommended (1) No enhanced reprocessing procedures for duodenoscopes nor periodic microbiologic surveillance cultures of endoscopes; (2) Strict adherence to current infection prevention and control guidelines, standards and requirements to prevent endoscopy-related infections, including following the manufacturer's instructions for reprocessing devices, and (3) Any case of patient infection or other serious side effects with the use of endoscopes should be reported to Health Canada.¹

¹ [Recommended practices for the prevention of endoscopy-related infections](#), PHAC 2016

The PICNet SOAC committee reviewed PHAC's recommendations, as well as related literature, and discussed current practice in BC. The group reached consensus to continue to provide ERCP procedures because of the importance of their diagnostic and therapeutic benefits, while strictly adhering to current reprocessing guidelines, and adding that patients should be informed of the specific benefits and risks prior to consenting to the procedure. The SOAC also agreed to no routine surveillance cultures of the scopes.

PICNet then issued a Q&A document on Recommendations For Reprocessing Duodenoscopes and Patient Informed Consent to its CoP.

***Mycobacterium chimaera* infections associated with 3T Heater-Cooler Systems**

In January 2016, following announcements from Health Canada and Sorin, the manufacturer of 3T Heater-Cooler Systems used in cardiac surgery, PICNet informed its CoP about potential *Mycobacterium chimaera* infections associated these heater-cooler systems (which are used by four of the health authorities). In October 2016, the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) updated its June 2016 Safety Communication to provide new information about *M. chimaera* infections associated with the use of the 3T in U.S. patients who had undergone cardiothoracic surgeries. Following this, Health Canada began to investigate all heater-cooler units licensed for use in Canada.

Cardiac Services BC and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) reviewed their databases, and to date, no confirmed cases have been identified. Nonetheless, Cardiac Services BC decided to notify potentially exposed patients and all health care providers of this issue. PICNet worked closely with Cardiac Services BC and PHSA Corporate Communications on a provincial communications rollout strategy. Cardiac Services BC sent letters to physicians and to patients whose cardiothoracic surgeries had involved the use of these heater/cooler units, while PICNet worked with PHSA on communications to the health authorities, and on a media release (for which Dr. Linda Hoang was the spokesperson). The story was picked up by several media outlets, including CBC and Global BC.

Disinfection of Ultrasound Probes for HPV

Adequate ultrasound probe reprocessing is essential. Routine high-level disinfection of internal probes between patients is mandatory, as is the use of a high-quality single-use probe cover to avoid gross contamination during the examination. Given the recent evidence that HPV may not be sensitive to the commonly employed high-level disinfectants, in June of 2016 PICNet issued advice to the Ministry and the health authorities that it is prudent to employ disinfectants that use oxidizing chemistries. The manufacturer's recommendations should always be followed in order to avoid damaging the probes.

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CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Bed #

Families and visitors: **STOP** Please report to staff before entering

Clean hands before entering and when leaving room

Staff: Required: - Gown & Gloves

Point-of-Care Risk Assessment

Two daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces

CONTACT PLUS PRECAUTIONS

Bed #

Families and visitors: **STOP** Please report to staff before entering

Clean hands before entering and when leaving room

Staff: Required: - Gown & Gloves

Point-of-Care Risk Assessment

Two daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces

DROPLET PRECAUTIONS

Bed #

Families and visitors: **STOP** Please report to staff before entering

Clean hands before entering and when leaving room

Staff: Required: - Point of Care Risk Assessment

Procedure mask with eye protection

DROPLET & CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Bed #

Families and visitors: **STOP** Please report to staff before entering

Clean hands before entering and when leaving room

Staff: Required: - Point of Care Risk Assessment

Procedure mask with eye protection

AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS

Private Room Negative Pressure **Keep door closed**

Families and visitors: **STOP** Please report to staff before entering

Clean hands before entering and when leaving room

Staff: Required: - Point of Care Risk Assessment

Mask

AIRBORNE & CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Private Room Negative Pressure **Keep door closed**

Families and visitors: **STOP** Please report to staff before entering

Clean hands before entering and when leaving room

Staff: Required: - Point of Care Risk Assessment

Mask

Point of Care Risk Assessment

Sign	Hand Hygiene	Protection
1. Contact with patient or environment reported	Hand hygiene	
2. Wound or injury at point of entry	Hand hygiene	
3. Patient with fever	Hand hygiene	
4. Patient with cough, sore throat, or other respiratory symptoms	Hand hygiene	
5. Patient with rash, fever, or other symptoms	Hand hygiene	
6. Patient with diarrhea	Hand hygiene	
7. Patient with vomiting	Hand hygiene	
8. Patient with blood or other body fluids	Hand hygiene	
9. Patient with other symptoms	Hand hygiene	

Point of Care Risk Assessment

Sign	Hand Hygiene	Protection
1. Contact with patient or environment reported	Hand hygiene	
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4. Patient with cough, sore throat, or other respiratory symptoms	Hand hygiene	
5. Patient with rash, fever, or other symptoms	Hand hygiene	
6. Patient with diarrhea	Hand hygiene	
7. Patient with vomiting	Hand hygiene	
8. Patient with blood or other body fluids	Hand hygiene	
9. Patient with other symptoms	Hand hygiene	

Practice Guidelines

Guidelines are developed by expert working groups 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 reflect 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.

Fecal Microbiota Therapy (FMT) Protocol

In 2015-2016, work began on provincial guidelines for fecal microbiota therapy (known commonly as stool transplant). A provincial FMT working group was formed, and a draft guidance document was submitted to the MoH. Ongoing work has been done in 2016/17 regarding the creation of a donor registry, standardized laboratory testing of donors and physician billing for the procedures.

In 2016/17, the FMT working group identified operational details involved with creating a centralised provincial registry. Laboratory and physician billing procedures were also determined. The group has recently enlisted the help of a project manager from the Provincial Strategic Initiatives group to facilitate the operationalization of the registry.

Gastrointestinal Infection Outbreak Guidelines Revision

PICNet's 2010 Gastrointestinal Infection Outbreak Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities were revised this year by the Guidelines Working Group. No significant changes for management of outbreaks were required. Of note, there was insufficient evidence to make any recommendations regarding adjunctive technologies for environmental cleaning. The guidelines were endorsed by the BC Communicable Diseases Policy Advisory Committee and posted to the [PICNet website](#) in June 2016.

Surveillance



PICNet's surveillance programs continue evolving to reflect advances and challenges in infection prevention and control practices. In 2016/17, PICNet and its Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC) moved forward with several new initiatives.

Whole Genome Sequencing

Outbreaks caused by organisms such as CPOs are difficult to investigate with traditional methods. Most resistant bacteria of infection control interest harbour its resistant genes on the bacteria's chromosomes. CPOs however, carry their genes on plasmids, making it very different to detect clusters using conventional methods. Newer technology such as whole genome sequencing (WGS) reveals the complete DNA make-up of an organism, including plasmid genes, to differentiate between closely related organisms or unrelated organisms with related plasmids, allowing outbreaks to be detected with fewer clinical cases, and provides the opportunity to stop outbreaks sooner and avoid additional transmissions. PICNet is collaborating with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Public Health Library (BCCDC PHL) on a process for combining WGS and epidemiological data in order to investigate HAI outbreaks in BC. This project is funded by a Genome BC Grant.

MDRO Screening

PICNet has participated in the health authorities' proposal to examine multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) screening compliance in BC acute care facilities. The project was endorsed by PICNet's SOAC, with the pilot study completed in 2016/17. The project will be implemented in 2017/18.

Target Setting

As requested by the health authorities, the SSC developed a draft guidance document for setting surveillance targets – this is currently in the review process.

Position Statement on CIHI Data

In preparation of the planned release of in-hospital infection rates by the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI), the members of the SSC evaluated the CIHI data and prepared a position statement outlining concerns regarding the quality and interpretation of the data. In May 2017, CIHI decided not to publicly release their in-hospital infection rates due to concerns raised regarding the quality of the data.

Evaluation of Electronic Hand Hygiene Auditing

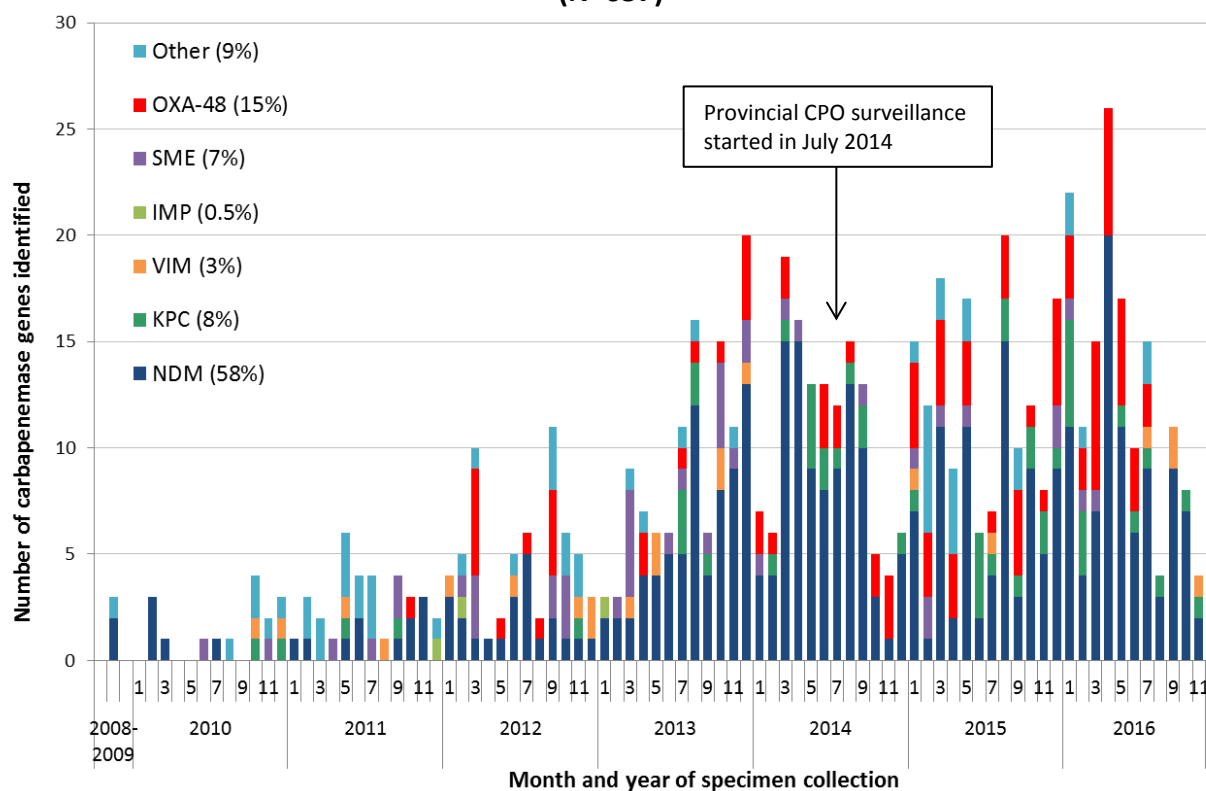
In the fall of 2016, the Healthcare Technologies Assessment Branch of the Ministry of Health evaluated various electronic hand hygiene auditing systems supported by data and advice provided by Bruce Gamage and Guanghong Han.

CPO Surveillance

Given concern due to its emerging nature, CPO was made a reportable communicable disease in BC in December 2016, under the Public Health Act. PICNet is working with BCCDC PHL and the provincial Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee on the process of reporting CPO cases identified in the community. Facility identified cases will be identified and followed up according to the current PICNet protocol (which can be found at www.picnet.ca/surveillance/cpo/cpo-surveillance/).

CPO surveillance reports continue to be released quarterly; they can also be found at www.picnet.ca/surveillance/cpo/cpo-surveillance/.

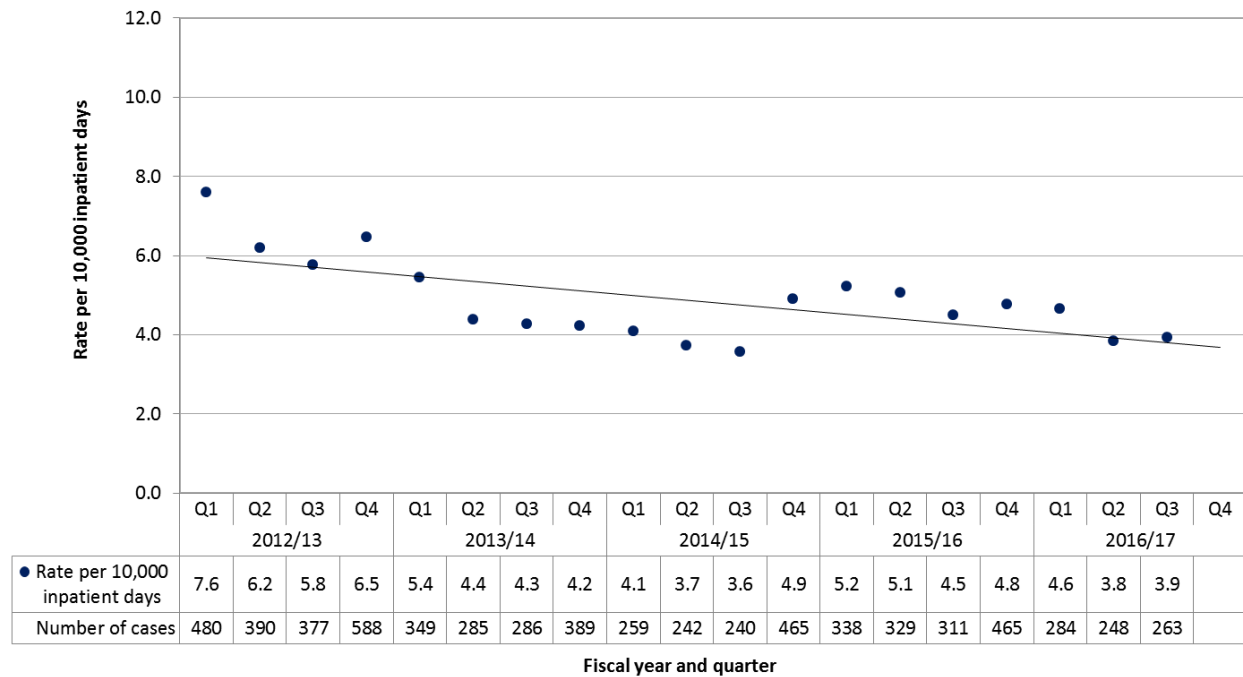
**Number of CPO cases by carbapenemase genes identified in BC, 2008- 2016
(N=657)**



CDI Surveillance

In 2016/17, provincial quarterly CDI rates decreased significantly compared to 2015/16. The latest quarterly update can be accessed via <http://s.picnet.ca/cdireports>. The annual surveillance report for CDI will be posted in September 2017.

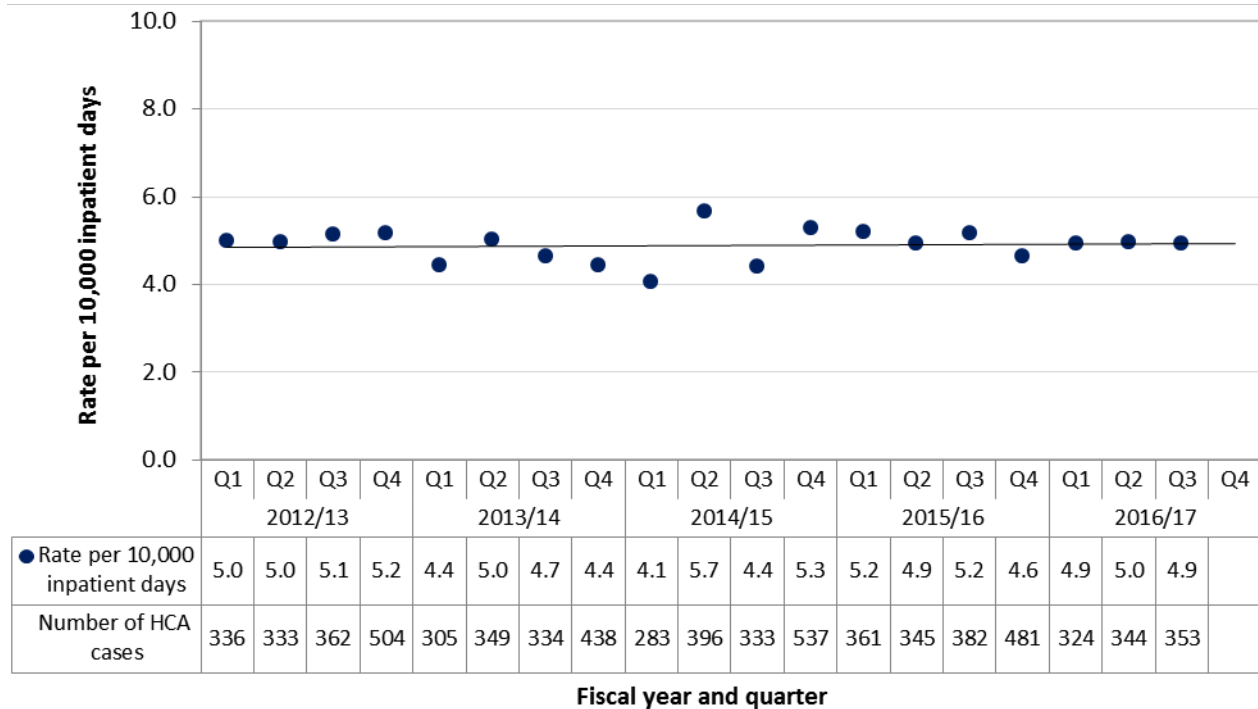
Provincial rate and number of new cases of CDI associated with the reporting facility, by fiscal year and quarter, 2012/13- 2016/17, British Columbia



MRSA Surveillance

The rate of MRSA has remained relatively stable in the past two years. 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>.) The annual surveillance report for MRSA will be posted in September 2017.

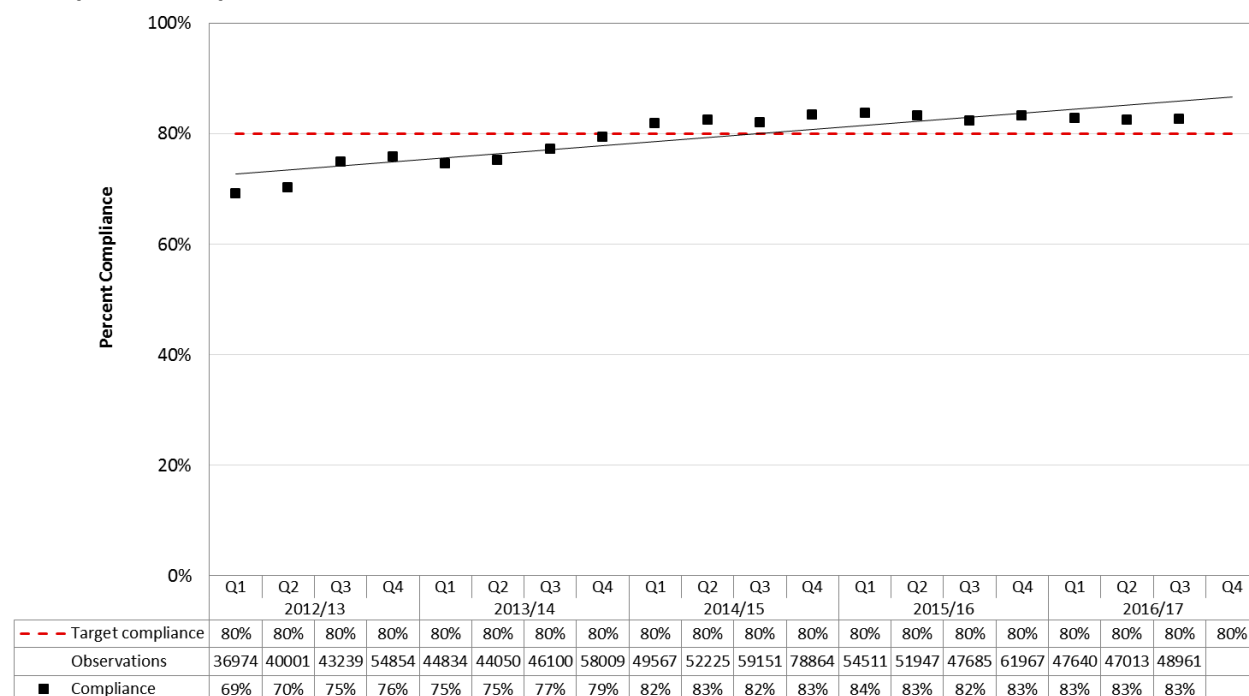
Provincial rate and number of new cases of MRSA associated with the reporting facility, 2012/13 - 2016/17, British Columbia



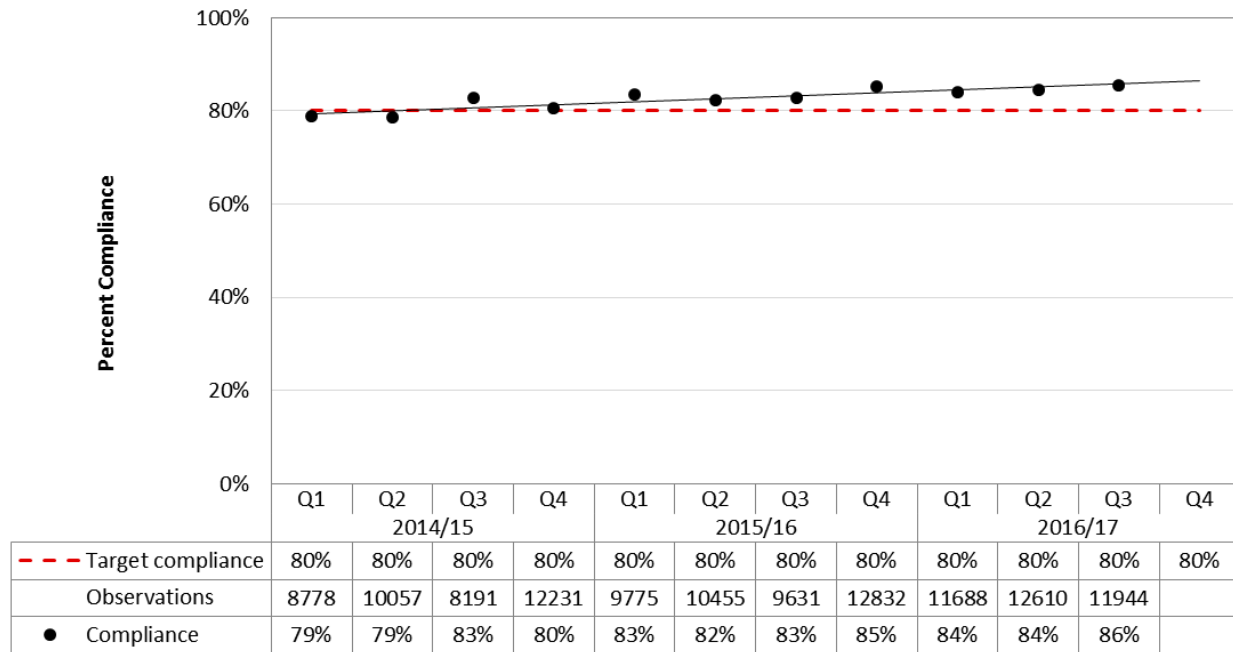
Hand Hygiene Compliance

Provincial reporting of hand cleaning compliance (HCC) among healthcare providers in acute care facilities began in 2011, with residential care (health authority owned and operated) added to the program in 2016. The graphs below show the overall provincial hand cleaning compliance in acute care facilities and residential care facilities by quarter and year. Both continued to exceed the target performance of 80% in 2016/17. The full reports can be downloaded from <https://www.picnet.ca/surveillance/hand-hygiene/>.

Overall provincial hand cleaning compliance in acute care facilities by quarter and year, 2012/13 – 2016/17



Overall provincial hand cleaning compliance in residential care facilities by quarter and year, 2014/15 – 2016/17



Communications

PICNet Website

Further improvements were made to the PICNet website, including a way to more easily search PICNet's library of guidelines and toolkits. All guidelines are now listed in a table that can be searched, sorted, and/or filtered (and multiple columns can be filtered simultaneously).

Search:

Click to sort by:	Jurisdiction	Author	PICNet Web Page	Date
Guideline/Toolkit	All Results	All Results	All Results	All
Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Guidelines	British Columbia	APIC BC Ministry of Health		2013
Best Practice Guidelines for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Critical and Semi-critical Medical Devices in BC Health Authorities	British Columbia	BC Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee BCCDC FNHA Health Canada		2011
Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections In All Health Care Settings – 2nd edition	Canada	Ministry of Health PHAC PICNet		2012
Best Practices for Infection Prevention and Control in Perinatology	Canada	PIDAC Perinatal Services BC Public Health Ontario		2012
Best Practices for Surveillance of Health Care-associated Infections in Patient and Resident Populations, 3rd edition	Ontario	Royal College of Dental Surgeons in Ontario US CDC WHO		2014
British Columbia Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings and Programs	British Columbia	WorkSafeBC PICNet	Environmental Cleaning	2016

Provincial Hand Hygiene Campaigns

The BC Hand Hygiene Communications Group (BCHH CoG) is comprised of communications professionals from each of the health authorities. In 2016, following the success of the Clean Shots photo contests, the BCHH CoG discussed how to create hand hygiene campaigns that are longer-term. The group decided to run a series of two-month campaigns focusing on different aspects of hand hygiene, with each health authority taking the lead on one campaign. Different communications tools were created for each campaign, including graphics, news articles, polls, contests, and requests for feedback. The themes are listed below.

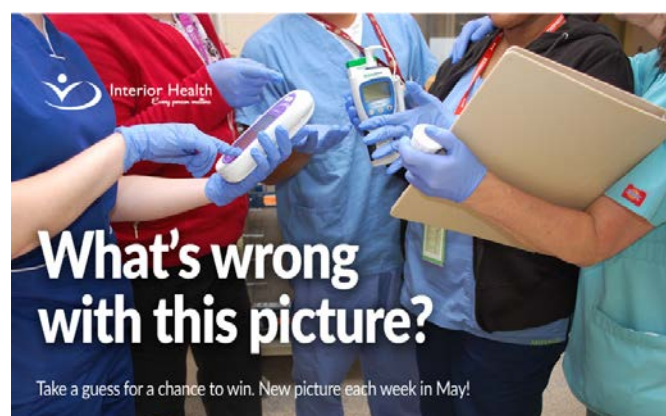


Theme	Health Authority	Campaign Dates	Materials Created
The four moments of hand hygiene	Northern Health	Jan- Feb 2017	Article, poster, graphics
The "before" moment	Interior Health	Mar-Apr 2017	Poster, web banner, article, request for staff feedback
Correct glove use	Vancouver Coastal Health	May- June 2017	Photos for contest, article

Theme	Health Authority	Campaign Dates	Materials Created
Patient Hand Hygiene	Providence	July -Aug 2017	Posters (several languages), web banners, how-to article
IPAC team profiles (for Infection Control Week)	PICNet/PHSA	Sept -Oct 2017	Staff interview questions, sample layouts
Hand Care	Island Health	Nov - Dec 2017	Article, photos
Soap vs ABHR	Fraser Health	Jan- Feb 2017	Mythbusting article

In June 2016, the group decided they would like to share their work nationally and Helen Evans submitted an abstract to the IPAC-Canada 2017 educational conference which was chosen for an oral presentation.

The photos below show some of the materials created by the group.



Healthcare Worker Education in Communications

Helen Evans, PICNet's Communications Officer, continued to offer communications education to healthcare workers by presenting a national webinar (through IPAC-Canada) on Communicating with Healthcare Workers.

Infection Control Week

PICNet updated its Planning and Communications Toolkit, which contains activity guides, planning tools and schedules, and communications/promotional information. As part of this, downloadable games, posters, and web banners were provided to the CoP. In addition, numerous tweets (with graphics and/or links) were sent out via the PHSA Twitter account.

In October and November 2016, PICNet visited four residential care facilities with its *"Let's Go Viral!"* infection control workshop.



Education

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 healthcare provider groups and educational institutes upon request.

New Infection Control Online Education Modules

As part of our work towards supporting the Ministry of Health's "All-Hazard Personal Protection Training Framework", in 2016, PICNet's Education Steering Committee replaced the online infection control education module hosted on the PHSA Learning Hub (and used by other health authorities, as well as non-health-authority affiliated organizations) with two new, separate modules:

- [Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Direct Clinical Care Providers](#) is appropriate for all health care professionals working directly with patients. This includes nurses, physiotherapists, physicians, care aides, laboratory technologists, radiology and ultrasound technologists, phlebotomists, and many other roles.
- [Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Healthcare Providers Not Involved in Direct Clinical Care](#) is appropriate for all health care staff with whose roles typically do not entail direct contact with patients. This includes dietitians, receptionists, pastoral care, interpreters, housekeeping, plant services/facilities management, kitchen staff, and others.

Critical Appraisal Toolkit Education Module

The Introduction to Critical Appraisal education module was designed by Joanne Archer to introduce ICPs to the Critical Appraisal Toolkit recently developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). PICNet promotes the use of evidence to guide decisions made in health care, and wanted to enable its CoP to become skilled at and comfortable in using the Critical Appraisal Toolkit. UBC has requested to make the module available as a resource for students taking their Infection Control course.

UBC FLEX Sessions

In 2016, PICNet developed a learning opportunity for medical students via the FLEX sessions at UBC. PICNet's proposal was accepted by the University and is on their curriculum as an elective that students may choose.

FLEX (flexible and enhanced learning) is a new series of three courses occurring in the first three years of the renewed UBC medical undergraduate program. The course framework supports self-directed learning by allowing students to pursue a variety of learning interests and select activities that begin to incorporate scholarly inquiry and social accountability into their future

practice. FLEX offers activities, experiences, and opportunities for student to connect with mentors, organizations and colleagues across the four UBC medical campuses (Vancouver-Fraser, Prince George, Victoria, and Kelowna).

The PICNet course includes completing the PICNet online educational module, spending time with Dr. Linda Hoang at BCCDC in whole genome sequencing and other microbiology areas, spending time with Dr. Guanghong Han learning about surveillance, and developing teaching presentations for their peers.

PICNet Educational Conference

The 2017 PICNet Educational Conference took place in a new venue, the Sheraton Vancouver Airport, to allow more room for delegates and exhibitors. This two-day conference had 117 delegates, 13 speakers, and 27 exhibitors. Presentation topics included:

- Employee engagement and workplace happiness
- Whole genome sequencing and what we are learning about CPO transmission
- Pediatric diarrheal illness
- Using ultraviolet light for disinfection of surfaces
- Patient Citizen movement
- BCaLM: (British Columbia associated Lyo-Biota) for management of recurrent *Clostridium difficile* infection
- Registration regulations and rules: How products come to market
- Infectious diseases and First Nations people
- Contact and disease transmission through the lens of fluid fragmentation
- Fresh thinking needed or ELSE! Infection control practices in units with behavioral issues

This year's conference again featured short presentations from Community of Practice members:

- Implications of TB PCR testing for frontline ICPs
- What is a Value Analysis Team?
- Improving patient hand hygiene: Staff engagement and barriers to the implementation of patient hand wipes before meals

"This was my first PICNet conference and I was impressed by the quality of speakers, the information available, and the vendors were incredible."

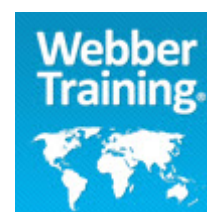
In-Services and Presentations

PICNet staff gave several in-services and conference presentations during 2016/17:

IPAC-BC Education Day presentation: the ethics framework question addressed by PICNet on allowing family to visit a patient with Ebola Virus Disease	Bruce Gamage, Network Manager
UBC tropical diseases course (organized by Jan Hayek): applying infection control principles for health care workers working abroad in tropical countries	
College of New Caledonia Nursing Students – Routine Practices and Additional Precautions, Illness and organisms of special interest to infection control (e.g. CDI)	Joanne Archer, Education and Practice Coordinator
College of New Caledonia Health Sciences class – Immune system and infections	
IPAC-BC: Joanne's role as Scientific chair and what other opportunities there are for IPAC-BC members to become involved with IPAC-Canada	
First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) conference for Community Nurses: what PICNet is, what kinds of services and programs we provide, and how to reach us.	
BC Surveillance and Epidemiology Community of Practice: infection control program and epidemiology	Guanghong Han, Surveillance Epidemiologist
Communicating with Healthcare Workers – webinar for IPAC-Canada members	Helen Evans, Communications Officer

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 2016/17, a total of 36 teleclasses were broadcast and/or made available online after the broadcast.

Participation in Provincial and National Groups

Awards Received by PICNet Staff

Joanne Archer received an Award of Excellence in Nursing Education from the Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. The award was presented to her in November 2016 by Lynn Stevenson, Associate Deputy Minister of Health.

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 (HCC) rates in acute care facilities. In 2016, data collection began for residential care facilities. Provincial reports on HCC in residential care facilities were added to the public HCC reports in 2016. Bruce Gamage, PICNet Manager, became chair of the PHHWG in January 2017 for a one year term.

Infection Prevention and Control-Canada

PICNet staff continue to play an active role in IPAC-Canada, the Canada's national infection prevention and control organization. Joanne Archer is on IPAC Canada's Network of Networks committee and the Reprocessing Special Interest Group; Guanghong Han sits on the Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group; and Helen Evans presented a webinar to IPAC-Canada members.

Committees, Working Groups, and Conferences

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

Bruce Gamage, Network Manager

- Provincial Antibiotic Stewardship Clinical Expert Group
- Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (Chair)
- Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Directors Group (Chair)
- National Case Definitions Working Group (Co-Chair)

Joanne Archer, Education and Best Practices Coordinator

- PICNet Education Steering Committee (Chair), and Guidelines Steering Committee (Chair)
- Standing member of the Northern Health Authority Regional Infection Control Committee
- Member of BC Provincial Tuberculosis Nurse Advisory Committee
- Lower Mainland Facilities Management Infection Control Committee
- Completed term as conference chair for IPAC-Canada in June 2016. Currently active on the IPAC-Canada's Network of Networks committee and the Reprocessing Special Interest Group
- Member of PIDAC Hemodialysis national working group
- Member of Provincial Hemodialysis and Infection Control Working Group

Dr. Guanghong Han, Surveillance Epidemiologist

- PICNet Surveillance Steering Committee (Co-Chair)
- Infection Control Epidemiologist of BC (ICE-BC) (Chair)
- IPAC-Canada Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group

Helen Evans, Communications Officer

- BC Hand Hygiene Communications Group (formerly PHHWG Communications Sub-Working Group)
- Health Quality Network Communications Committee

Appendices

Appendix A: 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 improving and sharing evidence-based practices, creating resources, and influencing policy decisions.

Our work is reflected in our 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:

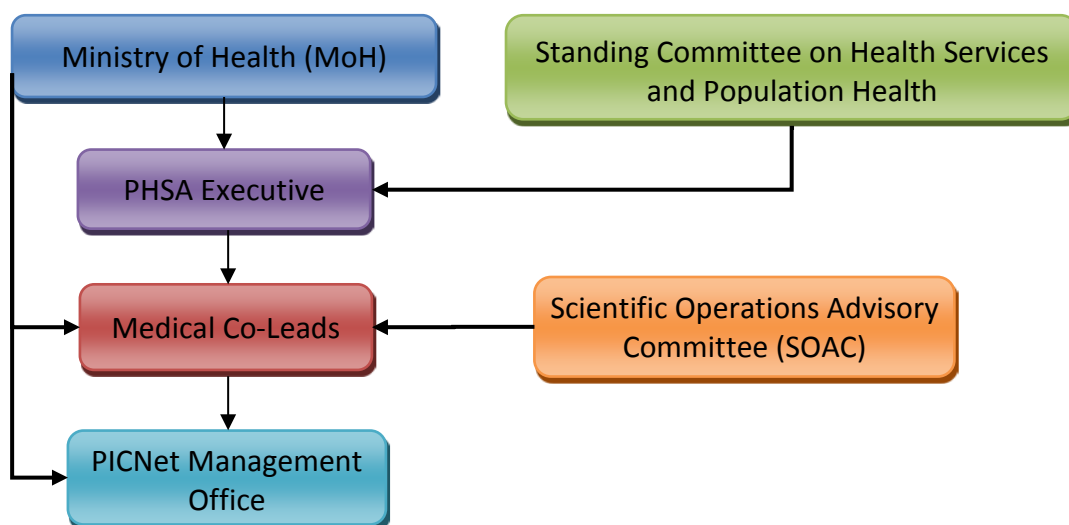
1. Improve coordination in provincial surveillance programs for healthcare-associated infections
2. Enhance communication of infection prevention and control activities across the continuum of care in the province
3. Continue to develop, provide and promote educational opportunities and resources for 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, physicians, pharmacists, and infectious disease specialists, 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.

Reporting Structure

PICNet's Scientific Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC) provides advice to PICNet on its strategic directions and best practices for infection prevention and control. The SOAC is comprised of **Operational Leads**, appointed by each health authority to serve as champions within their own jurisdictions for infection prevention and control, and **Scientific Experts** (in Medical Microbiology, Occupational and Public Health, Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control), appointed by the PICNet Management Office to provide expertise in their profession or discipline.



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

PICNet Co-Directors and Staff

Dr. Elizabeth Bryce
Medical Co-Lead

Bruce Gamage
Network Director

Joanne Archer
Education and Practice Coordinator

Romali Ranasinghe
Surveillance Systems Coordinator

Dr. Linda Hoang
Medical Co-Lead

Dr. Guanghong Han
Surveillance Epidemiologist

Helen Evans
Communications Officer

Appendix B: 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 the Ministry of Health, 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.



Appendix C: 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	Wendy Norman	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	Nancy Derossier	Executive Director, Quality, Patient Safety and Infection Control
	First Nations Health Authority	Marlene Hoover	Director Health Protection
Scientific	Infection Control Epidemiologist	Dr. Julie Mori	Infection Control Epidemiologist, Interior Health
	Infection Control Professional	Robyn Hunter	Coordinator, Infection Prevention and Control, PHSA
	Infection Control Professional	Kelsey Breault	Infection Control Practitioner, NHA
	Infectious Diseases	Dr. Jan Hyek	Clinical Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases , UBC
	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

Capacity	Representative of	Member	Job Title
Non-Voting Members	PICNet	Dr. Linda Hoang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICNet Medical Co-Lead • Medical Microbiologist, Public Health and Advanced Bacteriology & Mycology Program Head, BCCDC Public Health Laboratory • Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, UBC
	PICNet	Dr. Elizabeth Bryce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICNet Medical Co-Lead • Regional Medical Director of Infection Control and Medical Microbiology, VCH • Clinical Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UBC
	PICNet	Bruce Gamage	Network Director
	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	Job Title and Affiliation
Tara Donovan	Managing Consultant, Fraser Health
Dr. Neil Mina	Medical Microbiologist , Fraser Health
Louis Wong	Epidemiologist, Fraser Health
Kelly Dillon	ICP, Interior Health
Dr. Julie Mori	Epidemiologist, Interior Health
Dr. Bing Wang	Medical Microbiologist, Interior Health
Dr. Randall Dumont	Pathologist, Northern Health
Dr. Elizabeth Bryce	Medical Microbiologist, Vancouver Coastal Health
Leslie Forrester	Epidemiologist, Vancouver Coastal Health
Lisa Harris	ICP, Vancouver Coastal Health
Kelsi Rivers	ICP, Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. Titus Wong	Medical Microbiologist, Vancouver Coastal Health
David Puddicombe (until Feb 2017)	Epidemiologist, Providence Care Health
Dr. Elisa Lloyd-Smith (from Feb 2017)	Epidemiologist, Providence Care Health
Dr. Christopher Lowe	Medical Microbiologist, Providence Care Health
Anthony Leamon (until Jun 2016)	Epidemiologist, Island Health
Blair Ranns (from Oct 2017)	Epidemiologist, Island Health
Dr. Pamela Kibsey	Medical Microbiologist, Island Health
Jun Chen Collet	Epidemiologist, Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. Peter Tilley	Medical Microbiologist, Provincial Health Services Authority
Diana George	Epidemiologist, BCCDC
Bruce Gamage	Network Manager, PICNet
Guanghong Han	Epidemiologist, PICNet
Romali Ranasinghe	Surveillance Analyst, PICNet
Dr. Linda Hoang	Medical Microbiologist, BCCDC

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 Guideline Working Groups responses to comments received from the community of practice during consultation

Member	Affiliation
Joanne Archer (Chair)	PICNet
Brian Sagar	Ministry of 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
Michelle Chang	Provincial Health Services
Eleanor Elston	Island Health
Noorsallah Esmail	Fraser Health
Roxanne Fitzsimmons	Northern Health
Niki Gill	Interior Health
Kelsi Laporte	Providence Health
Adrianna Mendes	Provincial Health Services
Isobel McDonald	First Nations Health Authority
Janie Nichols	Fraser Health
Coleen Reiswig	Interior Health

Appendix D: Glossary of Acronyms

ARNBC	Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia
BC	British Columbia
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
BCCDC PHL	BCCDC Public Health Laboratory
BCHH CoG	British Columbia Hand Hygiene Communications Group (a sub-committee of the PHHWG)
CDI	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection
CIHI	Canadian Institute for Health Information
CoP	Community of Practice
CPO	Carbapenemase-producing organisms
FLEX	Flexible and enhanced learning (a UBC course)
FMT	Fecal microbiota therapy
GSC	Guidelines Steering Committee
HAI	Healthcare-associated infection
HCC	Hand cleaning compliance
HCW	Health care worker
ICP	Infection Control Professional/Practitioner
IPAC-Canada	Infection Prevention and Control Canada
MoH	Ministry of Health
MDRO	Multi-drug resistant organisms
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
PHHWG	Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
PHSA	Provincial Health Services Authority
PICNet	Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia
PIDAC	Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (Ontario)
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SOAC	Scientific Operations Advisory Committee
SSC	Surveillance Steering Committee
UBC	University of British Columbia
WGS	whole genome sequencing

PICNet

PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority



**Provincial Health
Services Authority**

Province-wide solutions.
Better health.