

PICNet

**PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority



PICNet Annual Report April 2011–March 2012



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Executive Summary

The Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) is a provincial program of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) with a specific interest in the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections. Its key areas include surveillance, best practices, guidelines, and education. PICNet works together with partners from the health authorities (HA) on province-wide surveillance initiatives, the development and promotion of evidence-based best practices, and the creation of educational tools. This is PICNet's annual report for 2011–2012, a year of growth and progress for the network.

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet's guidelines and education resources are recognized and utilized nationally. The guidelines are developed for BC, but are also used by other organizations across Canada.

At the request of the British Columbia (BC) infection prevention and control (IPC) Community of Practice (CoP), PICNet created a residential care manual for non-affiliated residential care facilities. The manual reflects the current best practices for the prevention and control of infections in residential care settings. PICNet also began updating its antibiotic resistant organisms (ARO) guidelines, and is partnering with the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Therapeutics (CADTH) to perform a systematic review of the current literature on this topic.

In 2011–2012, PICNet completed three projects that were requested by the BC Ministry of Health (MoH). PICNet completed a review of BC health authority housekeeping policies and procedures for infection control. The final report was submitted to the MoH at the end of July 2011, and was then taken to the Health Operations Committee for recommendations on further action.

In July 2011, the MoH requested that PICNet undertake a review of the multi-use of contrast media during cardiac catheterization procedures taking place in angiography suites within BC hospitals. PICNet formed an ad hoc working group in order to review this practice and issue recommendations to the MoH.

In May 2011, PICNet was asked by the MoH to conduct a review of reprocessing procedures for flexible endoscopes. In December 2011, the MoH released the revised Best Practice Guidelines for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Health Authorities; PICNet's recommendations for a provincial minimum standard for the reprocessing of flexible endoscopes have been adopted in this revision.

Surveillance

PICNet, in collaboration with the health authorities, made significant progress in provincial healthcare-associated infection surveillance. PICNet continued to collect data from the health authorities for the surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDI), and the latest report, released in March 2012, was deemed extremely useful to the MoH during the recent media focus on CDI. In 2011, PICNet began collecting data for both Methicillin-resistant

Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and hand hygiene compliance. The first MRSA surveillance report was released in April 2012, and the hand hygiene compliance report is scheduled for public release in summer 2012.

Education

PICNet offers education resources to its CoP, which can be used for healthcare providers to fulfill their continuing professional development requirements. In 2011–2012, PICNet developed an online course in Workplace Audit Training for Infection Control Practitioners (ICP) to help healthcare workers develop awareness for spotting deficiencies and improve their working environment. In addition, the PICNet education modules continue to be shared with organizations across the world who have asked to host the modules on their websites.

Consistent with its role in supporting infection prevention and control education and training, PICNet continued to provide funding to the CoP for educational activities through its Education Resource Fund. In 2011–2012, PICNet awarded grants to 14 members of the CoP to attend conferences.

Webber Teleclass Education is an international series of lectures on infection prevention and control topics, and PICNet makes the live broadcast service available to its CoP. In addition, as of January 2012, the teleclasses are available as archived recordings on the PICNet website.

Partnerships

PICNet continued to lead and participate in collaborations with the health authorities, the Ministry of Health, and other organizations, both provincial and national. In 2011–2012, PICNet collaborated with a group of infection control practitioners from across Canada on the development of an infection control practitioner (ICP) orientation program, and on the development of a multi-drug resistant Gram-negative bacteria toolkit. Both should be completed in 2012.

PICNet was also an active participant in the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG), a comprehensive provincial program that aims to improve and sustain hand hygiene compliance rates with the ultimate goal of decreasing healthcare associated infections (HAI). PICNet has representatives in the main group as well as the Communications, Surveillance, and Education sub-working-groups, and has taken a lead role in the data consolidation and analysis of the hand hygiene audit data.

A PICNet member is co-chairing the national Network of Networks, an interest group under the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA)-Canada. PICNet has also been invited to contribute to several disciplines of the BC First Nations and Inuit Health Authority.

Communications

The PICNet website was completely redesigned in 2011, with the new site launched in January 2012. The new site makes it easier for users to find the content they are seeking, and for the administrator to update and modify the site.

PICNet launched a communications survey in March 2012, the results of which will form the basis of upcoming communications planning. In addition, efforts were made to grow the PICNet Community of Practice. A promotional PICNet calendar and brochure were mailed out to more than 450 residential care facilities and aboriginal health centres, and the PICNet conference was promoted to several educational institutions.

Priorities for 2011–2012

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
To continue the expansion of our HAI Surveillance program to include MRSA and Hand Hygiene Compliance.	To expand our educational tools to include online training for auditors, an orientation program for new ICPs, and a Residential Care Manual for non-affiliated facilities.	To lead and improve provincial CDI surveillance and case management, including provincial reporting and a CDI toolkit.	To update our guidelines for the management of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms, based on the newest evidence and best practices.

Acknowledgements

PICNet would like to thank the members of the IPC Community of Practice who participate in both our standing committees and our working groups. Members volunteer their time to attend meetings and contribute to PICNet's success. 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, PICNet's surveillance work would not be possible without the participation of the five regional health authorities. Many thanks to:

- PICNet Advisory Committee
- PICNet Surveillance Steering Committee
- PICNet Education Steering Committee
- PICNet Conference Planning Committee
- Fraser Health Authority
- Northern Health Authority
- Interior Health Authority
- Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Providence Health Care
- all the members of the IPC CoP across the continuum of care.

“Over the years, PICNet has evolved and improved to a much better and bigger ‘network’. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of a team of professionals. I think it is on the right track; the networking will help existing members to promote the organization further and introduce it to more health professionals outside the traditional group.”

(from 2012 Communications Survey)

About PICNet

The Provincial Infection Control Network of BC is a provincially supported professional collaborative encompassing regional and provincial health organizations. PICNet was created in 2005 by the BC Ministry of Health, with a mission of maximizing the coordination and integration of activities related to healthcare associated infection prevention, surveillance and control for the entire province, using an evidence-based approach.

Under the aegis and accountability framework of the Provincial Health Services Authority, with the support of all health authorities in BC, PICNet is a collaborative of many healthcare disciplines working together to prevent and control healthcare associated infections across the continuum of care.

Our vision continues to be **Good Science — Good Will**.

PICNet's network model emphasizes participation, collegiality, and trust. This model fosters and strengthens professional relationships, and enables the infection prevention and control CoP to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of others across healthcare settings in BC. As a result, PICNet's initiatives and best practice guidelines are developed and owned by healthcare professionals in the province, combining rigorous processes, evidence-based standards with a hands-on knowledge of what is needed within healthcare settings to achieve the best possible results for infection prevention and control.

PICNet does this by:

- leading and supporting initiatives of shared importance
- providing knowledge to guide best practices
- sharing information, translating knowledge and training experts
- directing, coordinating and enhancing surveillance activities
- advocating on behalf of all professionals working to prevent and control HAIs in BC
- providing advice on relevant policy and issues

PICNet's work is focused in three areas:

- coordination of provincial **surveillance** of healthcare associated infections
- creation of **guidelines** for infection prevention and control best practices
- provision of **educational** tools and programs to our community of practice

PICNet's Community of Practice includes, but is not limited to, environmental health officers, epidemiologists, infection control professionals, infectious disease physicians, medical health officers, medical microbiologists, public health nurses and physicians, and occupational health nurses and physicians.

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Photo: PICNet Co-Directors and Staff

The PICNet organizational chart can be found on the PICNet website at <http://www.picnet.ca/about-picnet>

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet takes on projects requested by the MoH, as well as ones that are requested by the IPC Community of Practice and prioritized by PICNet's Advisory Committee. In 2011–2012, PICNet completed four projects for the MoH, and began work on one project requested by the CoP.

Review of BC Health Authority Housekeeping Policies and Procedures for Infection Control

PICNet has completed a review of provincial housekeeping practices in BC. The project reviewed the criteria used by health authorities to determine the type and frequency of cleaning of contact surfaces with particular attention to rooms where additional precautions are required. In addition, PICNet reviewed the education provided to housekeeping staff, as well as housekeeping auditing methods. Following a review by key stakeholders within the health authorities, a final report was submitted to the MoH at the end of July 2011. This report was taken to the Health Operations Committee for recommendations on further action.

Multi-dose Contrast Injector in Cardiac Catheterization Suites

In July 2011, the Ministry of Health requested that PICNet undertake a review of the multi-use of contrast media during cardiac catheterization procedures taking place in angiography suites within BC hospitals. PICNet formed an ad hoc working group in order to review this practice and issue recommendations to the MoH. The working group recommended that all centres performing cardiac catheterization procedures consider using power injector systems to administer contrast media; however, the group did not reach consensus on whether the contrast media and syringe must be changed for each patient. The report was sent to the Ministry in February 2012.

Review of Reprocessing Procedures for Flexible Endoscopes

In May 2011, PICNet was asked by the Ministry of Health to convene an expert working group to make recommendations on best practices to minimize potential risk to patients and mitigate the risk of decreasing access to endoscopic procedures to patients in BC. Flexible endoscopes are complex instruments that require cleaning and disinfection between patients, and conflicting views exist regarding the best practice for reprocessing flexible endoscopes — particularly cystoscopes — in physicians' offices and outpatient settings.

In December 2011, the Ministry released the revised Best Practice Guidelines for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Health Authorities. PICNet's recommendations for a provincial minimum standard for the reprocessing of flexible endoscopes have been adopted in this revision.

CDI Toolkit

A request came to PICNet from the MoH in March 2012 for a CDI toolkit to address the management of individual cases of CDI as well as outbreaks. An ad hoc working group has been formed and has begun work on the toolkit. The target date for completion of the toolkit is September 2012. A separate sub-working group is addressing CDI treatment protocols. The treatment protocol group, which is chaired by PICNet Co-Director Dr. Elizabeth Bryce, is working to the same timeline.

Infection Control Resource Teams

Outbreaks of healthcare associated infections occur in many settings in BC. These outbreaks occur despite the diligent efforts of on-site infection control teams, and are sometimes difficult to control. In such times, it is useful to call upon expert resources from outside the facility to provide a different perspective, and to identify issues that may have been overlooked. PICNet is proposing to act a facilitator for these infection control resource teams (ICRT) should a healthcare facility approach PICNet looking for outside help with controlling an outbreak. The primary role of the ICRTs would be to assess and provide recommendations regarding the management of urgent infection prevention and control issues including outbreak management.

As the roles and responsibilities for infection control within the province are currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Health, this project will move forward after the MoH has completed its written review and recommendations.

Guidelines

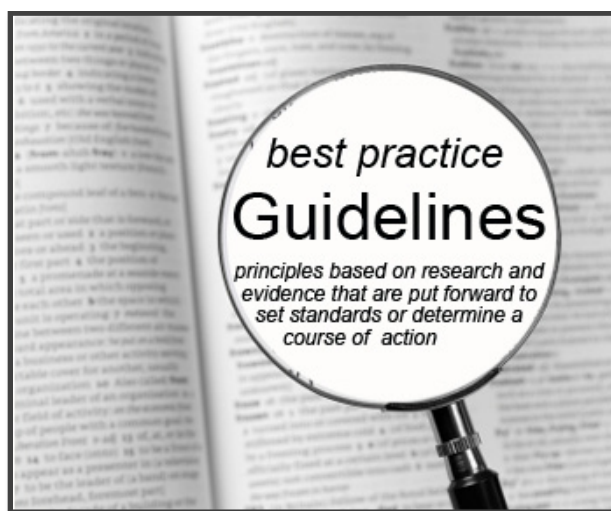
PICNet develops best practice guidelines that are requested by the Community of Practice. In addition, all PICNet guidelines go through a review cycle every three years to ensure that they contain the most up-to-date, evidence-based recommendations. These guidelines are developed for BC, but are also recognized and utilized nationally.

Residential Care Manual for Non-Affiliated Residential Care Facilities

At the request of the CoP, PICNet created this manual to provide a written resource for residential care facilities that do not have access to health authority IPC oversight, advice, or resources. The manual reflects the current best practices for the prevention and control of infections in residential care settings, based on the best practices of recognized expert groups in Canada.

Revision of Guidelines for Managing AROs in Healthcare Settings

The current ARO guidelines were published in 2008, so a review of these guidelines and the current relevant literature commenced in 2011. PICNet is partnering with the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Therapeutics (CADTH) to perform a systematic review of the literature. The updated guidelines are expected to be completed in fall 2012. The expert review committee consists of members of the IPC CoP.



Surveillance

2011–2012 was a year of great progress for provincial HAI surveillance. PICNet leads the data collection, analysis, and reporting of CDI, MRSA, and hand hygiene compliance data to satisfy provincial reporting requirements and establish provincial standards. PICNet, in collaboration with its partners, is working to create standardized tools and protocols that will be adopted provincially under the authority of the Ministry of Health.

PICNet, in collaboration with representatives from Interior Health Authority, Fraser Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Providence Health Care, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Northern Health Authority, and Provincial Health Services Authority, has developed a standardized provincial surveillance system to monitor the incidence of CDI and MRSA in BC acute care facilities. Standard case definitions and minimum surveillance datasets were developed for both CDI and MRSA by PICNet's Surveillance Steering Committee.



CDI Surveillance

High *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) rates continue to be a concern in some regions of BC. PICNet is working closely with its partners to address this issue, and its provincial healthcare-associated surveillance program continues to provide comprehensive reports for tracking trends in CDI rates across the province. Since April 2009, every health authority has submitted CDI surveillance data to PICNet on a quarterly basis. PICNet consolidates the data, conducts the analyses, and writes the provincial reports.

The most recent report available on PICNet's website presents the cases of CDI reported in Q1 and Q2 of fiscal year 2011/2012. During the recent focus (March 2012) around CDI rates, PICNet was able to rapidly release this semi-annual CDI report, which was used extensively by the health authorities and the MoH to address the concerns raised. Having two years of accumulated data that showed the rates trending downward was deemed extremely useful.

MRSA Surveillance

MRSA continues to have an impact within all the health authorities. Although MRSA has been followed for many years, there had never been a provincial report.

Provincial MRSA data collection began in 2011, and the first provincial surveillance report was released in April 2012. The report represents MRSA cases newly identified in BC acute care facilities from Q1 of fiscal year 2010/2011 to Q2 of fiscal year 2011/2012. Now that one year of retrospective data are available, the provincial reports will provide the opportunity to monitor trends across the province. Reports will be released semi-annually.

Hand Hygiene Compliance

Hand hygiene is considered to be the most important and effective infection prevention measure in the spread of healthcare-associated infections. Despite this, in 2011–2012, compliance with hand hygiene protocols by healthcare providers was less than 70% among some BC acute care facilities.

Hand hygiene auditing is necessary in order to monitor how well units and facilities are meeting their targets, and to assess what impact hand hygiene promotion initiatives have. Each fiscal quarter, trained auditors observe a sample of staff working in acute care sites across each BC health authority. The staff includes nurses, physicians, clinical support services, and auxiliary services such as housekeeping. The audit scores report how often staff members clean their hands as a percentage of total hand hygiene opportunities.

In collaboration with the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group, PICNet collects the data on behalf of the province, conducts the analyses, and prepares the consolidated provincial reports. The public reporting of these data has been mandated by the MoH, and the first provincial hand hygiene compliance report is scheduled for public release in the summer of 2012.



Education

Healthcare professionals are required to undertake continuing education every year. PICNet provides education resources and opportunities, such as the PICNet conference, education days, and the Webber Teleclass service, that can be used by healthcare providers to fulfill their continuing professional development requirements. In addition, PICNet's education resources are aimed not only at healthcare providers within acute care sites, but also within long-term care, public health, and occupational health.

Education Modules

One new education module was developed in 2011–2012, and requests were received for all of the existing modules from organizations across Canada and the world.

Workplace Audit Training for Infection Control Practitioners

This online course was created for to help healthcare workers develop awareness for spotting deficiencies and improving their working environment. The focus is on acute care sites; however, those who work in other areas would also benefit from completing the module. The module was developed in partnership with members of the CoP and the University of British Columbia, and was posted on the PICNet website in February 2012.

Requests to host the modules

During 2011–2012, PICNet received requests from healthcare organizations and educational institutions across Canada and around the world to make the PICNet education modules available on their websites and intranets. The requests came from across Canada (BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories) and from international colleagues (South Africa, and Saudi Arabia).

Conferences and Events

Education Day

PICNet hosted an education day on the topic of "GI Infections: New Issues with Old Pathogens" in November 2011. This half-day event, sponsored by Hygie Canada, featured experts from BC and Ontario sharing their knowledge on the prevention and control of gastrointestinal infections and outbreaks. The presentations were given in person in Vancouver, and were simultaneously broadcast as a live webcast. About 70 people attended the event, in person and by webinar.

*"I was very impressed with this presentation, and look forward to similar opportunities to gain knowledge relevant to my profession."
(from Education Day evaluation)*

*"The cost to travel is difficult given we have several ICPs in our health authority, this (webcast) option was amazing and so appreciated as an option."
(from Education Day evaluation)*

PICNet Educational Conference

PICNet hosted its fourth educational conference, “Sharing & Growing Together” at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, British Columbia from April 7–8, 2011. The conference brought together approximately 160 delegates, including sponsors and exhibitors, over two days. Participants included representatives from all the health authorities in BC, the Ministry of Health, WorkSafeBC, BC Institute of Technology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and the University of British Columbia.



*“Overall, an excellent conference! Interesting, lively topics, lots of leaders in Infection Control present. Well worth coming to.”
(from 2011 conference evaluation)*

Infection Control Week

For Infection Control Week (October 17–21, 2012), PICNet sent invitations to hospitals and residential care facilities to have PICNet display an information booth at their site. PICNet visited Royal Columbian Hospital, Peace Arch Hospital, Fraserview Immediate Care Lodge, Richmond Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, and Lynn Valley Care Centre.



CHICA-Canada Educational Conference

PICNet hosted an informational booth at the annual Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA)-Canada Educational Conference, held May 28–June 2, 2011 in Toronto. The conference hosted more than 600 delegates.

Hemodialysis Project

In partnership with the BC Patient and Safety Quality Council (BCPSQC) Quality Academy, PICNet created a patient hand hygiene education program. The focus of the project, which involved working with hemodialysis patients in Northern Health Authority, was to engage patients in the development of educational tools for hand hygiene that could be used to help prevent transmission of infections in a vulnerable patient population. The program was very well received, and there is interest to adopt it provincially.

Education Resource Fund

Consistent with its role in supporting infection prevention and control education and training, PICNet continues to provide an Education Resource Fund. This fund provides educational grants to members of PICNet's CoP, which consists of all healthcare professionals in the province 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 the Advisory Committee scored the applications and decided upon the minimum score for funding. In 2011, PICNet was able to provide funding for 14 members of the CoP to attend conferences and workshops.

2011 Education Fund Recipients

Name	Organization	Educational Activity
Mary Cameron-Lane	VCH	BCPSQC Quality Academy
Debbie Cosgrove-Swan	IHA	PICNet Conference
Stephanie Cooke	FHA	CHICA Conference
Debra Foster	NHA	PICNet Conference
Debora Giese	NHA	PICNet Conference
Deanna Hembroff	NHA	CHICA Conference
Suzanne Hyderman	Good Samaritan Society	PICNet Conference
Lorena McLure	IHA	PICNet Conference
Beth McAskil	NHA	PICNet Conference
Andrea Neil	IHA	CHICA Conference
Jackie Ratzlaff	VCH	PICNet Conference
Colleen Reiswig	IHA	PICNet Conference
Darlene Spence	FHA	Canadian Healthcare Engineers Society
Joanne Tench	IHA	PICNet Conference
March Vachon	Good Samaritan Society	CHICA Conference

In-Services and Presentations

PICNet staff gave presentations and in-services to many groups during 2011–2012:

- College of New Caledonia (CNC) student nurses
- CNC Health Sciences Class
- UBC School of Population and Public Health Grand Rounds
- BC Renal Agency
- BC Licensed Practical Nurses Association Annual Conference
- College of Registered Nurses of BC – Education Series
- UBC School of Population and Public Health - Control of Communicable Diseases
- First Nations and Inuit Health community care aids
- Kidney Foundation chapter
- radiology technologist group
- home care aids group
- dental hygienist group

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 2011–2012, a total of 48 teleclasses were broadcast.



All teleclasses since January 2012 are now available as archived recordings on the PICNet website. This allows CoP members who missed any teleclasses to listen to them at a later date. In addition, Webber Training has also made available to PICNet the recordings of teleclasses that were not broadcast in Canada.

Partnerships and Participation in Provincial/ National Groups

Provincial IPC Framework

The Ministry of Health has undertaken an initiative to engage provincial stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive provincial infection prevention and control (IPC) framework. The purpose of the framework will be to clarify the roles and responsibilities of IPC experts, occupational health, public health, and patient safety workers and to proactively set the strategic direction for IPC in the province.

As part of this initiative, PICNet is currently exploring ways that its role as a provincial IPC program can be enhanced. Strengthening PICNet's role as a provincial infection prevention and control program would align and continue to address the needs identified by the auditor general in 2007 and by the provincial visioning exercise currently underway. PICNet has laid the foundation for this next step with its successful development of an IPC Community of Practice, and by continuous partnering with health authorities and organizations such as WorkSafeBC, BC Patient Safety and Quality Council (BCPSQC), and the Ministry of Health. An enhanced provincial program would continue to develop standardized responses, expand reporting on healthcare associated infections, define needs across the continuum of care, and capitalize on opportunities for all members of the network in BC.

PICNet is an active partner in creating a new vision for provincial infection prevention and control in BC, and we look forward to working with our partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients undergoing healthcare.

CCM Healthcare Quality Indicators

IPC surveillance data is used as an important reflection of the quality of care provided in BC hospitals. Currently the Clinical Care Management Committee (CCMC), under the Ministry of Health, is collecting indicators as part of a new quality initiative within the health authorities.

As part of the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG), a program under CCM, PICNet is collecting hand hygiene compliance rates on behalf of all acute care hospitals in BC to create reports that will be used as provincial indicators.

Next year, CCMC will be adding MRSA infection rates as a patient care quality indicator. With PICNet now collecting and reporting on MRSA data, we are strategically prepared to meet the need for making this information available to the province.

Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group

In 2010, the auditor general conducted a review of hand hygiene programs within the five regional health authorities, and recommended that the HAs collaborate to create a provincial hand hygiene program. The Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG) was formed in

September 2010 to create a comprehensive provincial program to improve and sustain hand hygiene compliance rates with the goal of decreasing healthcare-associated infections. The group will support the implementation of Clinical Care Management as part of the MoH key result areas related to hand hygiene. PICNet is an active member of the PHHWG, with representatives in the main group as well as the Communications, Surveillance, and Education sub-working-groups.

To date, PICNet has contributed to the creation of a provincial hand hygiene education module; a project description two-pager that was posted on the CCM website; hand hygiene guidelines; and the collection and reporting of hand hygiene compliance rates from the regional health authorities.



PICNet is also collaborating with the PHHWG on a WorkSafeBC-funded study aimed at exploring change management and healthcare workers' perceptions around a standardized provincial hand hygiene program. PICNet has provided data analysis support, office space, and resources to the research project manager.

ICP Orientation Program

It has long been identified that many infection prevention and control programs do not have a formal orientation tool. To fill that gap, PICNet collaborated with a group of infection control practitioners (ICP) from across Canada on the development of a comprehensive orientation program. Completing this program will provide individuals who are new to infection prevention and control with enough information to function as a novice practitioner while awaiting entrance into an accredited infection control course. It is intended that this education material will be enhanced with mentorship from an experienced professional in Infection Prevention and Control. The program will be available on the PICNet website as a series of ten modules.

CHICA Partnerships

Multi-drug Resistant Gram-negative Bacteria Toolkit

CHICA-Canada has partnered with the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) to update the previous Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase (ESBL) Organisms toolkit to include new emerging organisms with Carbapenem resistance. The group has created an evidence-based protocol, and the final product will be available at the CHICA-Canada conference in June 2012. PICNet was invited to be a part of the group because PICNet had developed a Carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative bacilli (CRGNB) toolkit in 2011.

CHICA Presidency

In November 2011, Bruce Gamage was elected president of CHICA-Canada for 2013. He will be President-Elect in 2012 and then assume his presidency in January 2013.

Communications

Website Redesign

In 2011, the PICNet website was completely redesigned. The original website had been designed in 2007, and as PICNet had grown so much since then, it was becoming increasingly difficult for users to find what they needed on the website. In addition, the site design technology was out of date, resulting in an increased time burden on the website administrator.

PICNet worked with a website design and management firm to redesign the website. PICNet staff spent many months reviewing all the content to make sure that it was up to date, and then testing the new site, which was launched in January 2012. The new site is much easier for the site administrator to update and modify, and feedback from users has been very positive.



PICNet also purchased the domain www.picnet.ca so that when users search “PICNet” (using Google or another search engine), the Provincial Infection Control Network should now be first in their search results.

Communications Survey and Planning

In October 2011, a new Communications Coordinator joined the PICNet team. Using the 2011–2013 Strategic Plan, work began to develop a communications plan for 2012. The first step in this process was a communications audit, which included a review of the different types of communications vehicles (e.g. website, newsletters, reports) that PICNet uses to communicate with its different audiences (including the CoP, PHSA executives, MoH, Advisory Committee, etc.). Given that the most recent survey of the CoP was in April 2010, and only a few of the questions were communications-oriented, a survey of the CoP was required in order to assess how well PICNet is communicating with its CoP, and to find out what methods of communication, frequency, etc. will best suit members’ current needs.

The communications survey was launched in March 2012. Given the timing of PICNet’s other activities, including the annual conference, the survey ran until May 2012. Once the results are tabulated, these will form part of the communications planning process.

In the meantime, communications work continues in the form of updating and improving the website, keeping the CoP updated on PICNet activities and IPC news via PICNet’s newsletters,

preparing reports for PHSA Executive, working closely with PHSA Corporate Communications for the release of surveillance reports, planning and running the annual PICNet conference, and collaborating with other health authorities on projects such as the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group Communications Sub-Committee and the Health Quality Network Communications Committee.

Growing the Community of Practice

In an effort to make more organizations aware of PICNet’s resources and services, the 2012–2013 PICNet calendar and brochure were mailed out to 442 residential care organizations and 29 aboriginal health centres. In an additional effort to connect with potential new CoP members, the PICNet 2012 conference was promoted to several educational institutions in BC: BCIT School of Nursing, UBC, Kwantlen College, Simon Fraser University, Douglas College, and the Canadian Nursing Students Association. As a result, from December 2011 to May 2012, the PICNet mailing list grew by 200 new subscribers.

*“PICNet is my #1 resource for infection prevention
and control information... great work!”
(from 2012 Communications Survey)*

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary of Acronyms

APIC	Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
ARO	antibiotic resistant organism
BC	British Columbia
BCAMM	BC Association of Medical Microbiologists
BCPSQC	British Columbia Patient and Safety Quality Council
CADTH	Canadian Agency for Drugs and Therapeutics
CCMC	Clinical Care Management Committee
CDI	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection
CHICA	Community and Hospital Infection Control Association–Canada
CI	confidence interval
CoP	Community of Practice
CRGNB	Carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative bacilli
FHA	Fraser Health Authority
FQ	fiscal quarter
HA	health authority
HAI	healthcare-associated infection
IHA	Interior Health Authority
ICP	infection control professional
IPC	infection prevention and control
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
NHA	Northern Health Authority
PHC	Providence Health Care
PHHWG	Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group
PHSA	Provincial Health Services Authority
PICNet	Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia
VCHA	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
VIHA	Vancouver Island Health Authority

Appendix B: Goals and Objectives

Strategic Direction #1 – Building Partnerships			
Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
PICNet will proactively develop new ways of relating and optimizing our collaboration with our partners in Occupational Health, Public Health and Quality and Patient Safety.	Increase awareness about PICNet opportunities and initiatives among healthcare providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to showcase PICNet's work in healthcare facilities and IPC related events Conduct regular CoP surveys to identify areas for improvement and areas of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet participated in Infection Control Week activities in facilities in the lower mainland, and exhibited at the 2011 CHICA-Canada annual conference. In March 2012, PICNet launched a Communications Survey to find out how well we are communicating with the CoP, and how we can improve. PICNet mailed its educational calendar and brochure to more than 450 organizations.
	Collaborate with healthcare organizations and groups across the continuum of care on IPC issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with representatives from the health authorities, Public Health, Occupational Health & Safety, Residential Care, the Ministry of Health, Patient Safety and Quality, WorkSafeBC, community care and other related IPC speciality areas focusing on guideline development and support for implementation as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet collaborated with several multidisciplinary groups to develop guidelines, toolkits and discussion papers. PICNet is an active member of the PHHWG group, which is a CCM sub-group, on developing standardized Hand Hygiene auditing, reporting, and education

Strategic Direction #1 – Building Partnerships

Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
	Engage in innovative IPC-related research and practical projects that contribute to the advancement of IPC knowledge and practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify IPC-related research and practical projects that will contribute to IPC knowledge and practices Invite members of our CoP and key partners to participate in the IPC research and practical projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet is collaborating with the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group and the HAs on a WorkSafeBC-funded research project looking at healthcare providers' perceptions of hand hygiene and change initiatives.

Strategic Direction #2 – Improving Quality

Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
PICNet will expand the province-wide capacity for surveillance of HAI, develop tools and resources for our CoP and develop evidence-based guidelines essential to improving services for patients.	Lead the improvement, expansion, implementation, and evaluation of the provincial HAI surveillance program on behalf of all BC healthcare facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collect, analyze, interpret, and report HAI surveillance data in collaboration with the health authorities and the MoH Using continuous quality improvement principles evaluate and keep improving the existing HAI surveillance program infrastructure Incrementally expand the existing surveillance program to include other important HAIs: MRSA, Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE), Surgical Site Infections (SSI) and Blood Stream Infections (BSI) as resources permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet continues to collect data from the HAs on CDI. MRSA was added to the surveillance program in 2011; the first provincial MRSA report was released in March 2012. Provincial Hand Hygiene Compliance Surveillance was launched as part of the PHHWG in 2011; the first report will be published in 2012. PICNet collaborated with the Surveillance Steering Committee to improve the surveillance reports.

Strategic Direction #2 – Improving Quality			
Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
	Develop further provincial best practice guidelines for IPC using our defined collaborative, multidisciplinary, evidence-based, iterative approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop best practice guidelines for the prevention and control HAI in collaboration with our CoP Continue to engage our CoP soliciting needs to develop and prioritize best practice guidelines using the PICNet guideline development process Evaluate and update existing provincial best practice guidelines to ensure they are current and based on the most recent evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet created the Residential Care Manual for Non-Affiliated Residential Care Facilities. PICNet completed reviews of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provincial housekeeping practices in BC multi-dose contrast injectors in cardiac catheterization labs reprocessing procedures for flexible endoscopes

Strategic Direction #3 – Promoting Best Practices			
Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
PICNet will actively promote the implementation of best practices through communication strategies, developing resources and tools, and providing access to educational opportunities.	Develop and deliver educational programs and resources promoting evidence-based best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop online educational modules, operational tools, checklists and other resources to support infection prevention and control CoP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARO guidelines are under revision. A Workplace Audit Training for IPC Practitioners module was created and posted on the PICNet website. PICNet Education Modules were shared with other organizations across Canada.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and facilitate annual PICNet educational conferences, bringing key leaders and educators together to share their knowledge and expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An educational conference was organized for April 2012. PICNet hosted an Education Day on the topic of GI Infections in November 2011.

Strategic Direction #3 – Promoting Best Practices			
Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
	Assess the educational needs of the BC's infection prevention and control CoP, working collaboratively with key stakeholders across the continuum of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance infection prevention and control-related knowledge transfer by linking with partners (e.g. BCPSQC) on relevant educational projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet is involved in a project as part of the BCPSQC Quality Academy to enhance hand hygiene patient education for hemodialysis patients. PICNet collaborated with a group of ICPs from across Canada to develop an orientation manual for new ICPs.
	Develop and improve access to infection prevention and control educational resources for PICNet's CoP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the ongoing development, enhancement and review of PICNet's website as a vehicle for communication and education Continue to provide ongoing access to educational teleclasses Provide funding opportunities for members of the BC IPC CoP to attend relevant educational events Continue to develop and host online educational modules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet's website was redesigned in 2011 to make it easier for users to find the content they need, and to draw attention to new developments. The new site was launched in January 2012. PICNet provided access to 48 Webber teleclasses during 2011/2012. Funding was provided for 10 members of the CoP to attend educational events. New educational modules were developed.

Strategic Direction #4 – Responding to Issues			
Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
PICNet will respond to emerging health issues in a timely manner.	Respond to urgent/emergent IPC issues, as appropriate, with PICNet's CoP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form ad hoc working groups as necessary to address urgent/emergent infection control issues using experts from our CoP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet formed ad hoc working groups to address the following three requests for review from the MoH: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC Health Authority Housekeeping Policies and Procedures for Infection Control Multi-dose Contrast Injector in Cardiac Catheterization labs Reprocessing procedures for flexible endoscopes A request came to PICNet from the MoH in March 2012 for a CDI Toolkit; an ad hoc working group has been formed, and work is under way.

Appendix C: Standing Committee Reports

Advisory Committee

Appointees to the PICNet Advisory Committee represent the six HAs and several key organizations involved with the prevention and control of HAIs. This allows for accountability and lines of communication between PICNet and the HAs and represented organizations, and also helps clarify the roles and responsibilities of Committee members. At the same time, the Committee continues to represent all regions of British Columbia, and includes members with great expertise and experience in areas relevant to infection prevention and control.

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.

Member	Affiliation
Dr. Diane Roscoe	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (Chair)
Dr. Elizabeth Bryce	PICNet Co-Director (non-voting)
Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton	PICNet Co-Director (non-voting)
Dr. Bonnie Henry	BC Centre for Disease Control
Dr. Ben Mack	Fraser Health Authority
Janice de Heer	Interior Health Authority
Deanna Hembroff	Northern Health Authority
Dr. Marc Romney	Providence Healthcare
Dr. Eva Thomas	Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. Martin Wale	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Dave Keen	Provincial Occupational Health Directors
Dr. Joan Tomblin	BC Association of Medical Microbiologists
Dr. Annalee Yassi	Occupational Health Specialist
Dr. Bill Bowie	Infectious Disease Specialist
Cynthia Proskow	CHICA – Vancouver Island
Geoffrey Clark	WorkSafeBC
Dr. George Astrakianakis	Environmental Health Specialist
Katie Procter	BC Patient Safety and Quality Council
Dr. Larry Gustafson	Health Officer's Council
Joanne Archer	PICNet (non-voting)
Bruce Gamage	PICNet (non-voting)
Helen Evans	PICNet (non-voting)
John Andruschak	PHSA Executive (ex officio)
Brian Sagar	Ministry of Health (ex officio)

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.

The goals and objectives of this committee are to:

- assist in ongoing process evaluation of the PICNet surveillance processes and protocols.
- advise on development of web-based tools for data collection, storage, analysis and sharing.
- advise on the development of check-lists for each HA requirements to implement each surveillance module.
- assist with the implementation of standardized surveillance methodology and case definitions province-wide that conform to national initiatives.
- advise on the integration of laboratory surveillance through typing of a representative number of isolates and standardization of laboratory protocols in collaboration with the BC Association of Medical Microbiologists (BCAMM).

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

Member	Affiliation
Jun Chen Collet	Provincial Health Services Authority
David Crawford	Interior Health Authority
Tara Donovan	Fraser Health Authority
Leslie Forrester	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Bruce Gamage (Chair)	PICNet
Dr. Guanghong Han	PICNet
Deanna Hembroff	Northern Health Authority
Dr. Bonnie Henry	Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. Linda Hoang	Provincial Health Services Authority
Anthony Leamon	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Dr. Elisa Lloyd-Smith	Providence Health Care
Anne-Marie Locas	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
Dr. George Astrakianakis	University of British Columbia
Dr. William Bowie	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Janice de Heer	Interior Health Authority
Bruce Gamage	PICNet
Linda Kingsbury	Infection Control Consultant
Margaret Litt	Vancouver Island Health Authority

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.

The committee members represent their jurisdiction and/or professional discipline. PICNet would like to thank the Education Steering Committee for their hard work this year.

Member	Affiliation
Joanne Archer (Chair)	PICNet
Carolyn Bouchard	Northern Health Authority
Jim Curtin	Providence Health Care
Christine Franic	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Shelley Franklin	BC Ambulance Service
Toby Krell	Saint Joseph’s Hospital
Isobel McDonald	BC First Nations Inuit Health
Colleen Reiswig	Interior Health Authority
Noorsallah Esmail	Fraser Health Authority

PICNet

PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
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A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority



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