

PICNet

PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority



PICNet Annual Report April 2012–March 2013



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Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet)
May 2013

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Message from the Co-Directors

This has been a busy year for PICNet, and we anticipate that next year will be even more productive. In 2012–2013, PICNet’s governance structure underwent a review, and a new structure has been approved by Integrated Primary Acute and Community Care Committee; this structure will be put into place in 2013–2014. This represents a large, functional step forward for PICNet, and we are excited about the new operations model working with our many partners throughout British Columbia.

A new Scientific Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC), comprised of appointed Operational Leads and Scientific Experts, will be instituted. The committee will provide advice on PICNet’s strategic directions and on best practices for infection prevention and control. PICNet’s strategic plan will be developed in collaboration with the health authorities and the Ministry of Health, and approved by the Ministry; this will clarify PICNet’s mandate and strategic directions. The SOAC will fulfill the role previously taken by the Advisory Committee.

As we move forward with you all into the coming year, we also look back with gratitude for all the partnerships, valuable input, and ongoing support poured into our network. In light of all the work that has been done since PICNet’s inception in 2005, we continue to be excited by our development and by all that is yet to be accomplished. Our new service model will only serve to strengthen our relationships with our partners in the health authorities and the Ministry, and continue to improve the work we do to protect the patients within our healthcare system from acquiring healthcare-associated infections.

Sincerely,

Drs. Elizabeth Bryce and Judith Isaac-Renton



Dr. Elizabeth Bryce



Dr. Judith Isaac-Renton

Executive Summary

The Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) is a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) partnering with experts in Infection Prevention and Control, Public Health and Occupational Health, with a specific interest in the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections. Our key areas of focus include surveillance, best practice guidelines, and education. PICNet works with partners from all British Columbia health authorities, related agencies and with support from the Ministry of Health (MoH), on provincial surveillance initiatives, the development and promotion of evidence-based best practices, and the creation of educational tools.

This report provides feedback to our members and clients for the past fiscal year. 2012–2013 was a busy year for PICNet, with three major projects, two new/updated online educational modules, continued surveillance work, several educational events and in-services, and the development of new infection control resources.

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet completed three major projects in 2012-2013: the *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Toolkit, the Best Practice Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning, and the revision of the Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (ARO) Guidelines. The former two were requested by the Ministry of Health, and the latter was an update of the 2008 guidelines. The CDI toolkit and ARO guidelines were finalized and published in March 2013, and the environmental cleaning guidelines were submitted to the MoH in April 2013.

Surveillance

PICNet members made significant progress in provincial healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance. PICNet has provided expertise and worked with the health authorities to explore ways that the surveillance data and reports can add value for infection prevention and control programs in BC, in particular through a more streamlined data reporting process, improved data quality, and increased frequency of public reporting. Reports for CDI, Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and hand hygiene compliance are now released quarterly as well as annually.

In addition, PICNet is participating in a national project to identify the overall prevalence of AROs in acute care hospitals across Canada.

Education

PICNet collaborated with a group of infection control professionals (ICPs) from across Canada to create an orientation program for new ICPs. The Orientation Manual for New Infection Control Professionals is designed to provide the new ICP with enough basic knowledge and skills to enable them to begin their practice while waiting to register for an accredited infection control course. The manual is freely downloadable from the PICNet website.

In collaboration with the health authorities, the Infection Prevention and Control Basics online education module was updated. Following requests from the Community of Practice (CoP) for certificates of completion, all of the education modules (including those created by other organizations and shared on the PICNet website) were made available on the PHSA LearningHub, which is now accessible by other health authorities and non-affiliated healthcare workers. Learners now can track their progress and obtain certificates of completion.

In April 2012, PICNet hosted its annual educational conference, which was attended by 130 delegates from across the province and healthcare pillars. In November, PICNet hosted a free, half-day seminar on the topic of Transforming Change in Healthcare. During National Infection Control Week (October 14-21, 2012), PICNet staff visited nine facilities and provided education to more than 300 staff across the Lower Mainland.

PICNet continues to fund members of the CoP to attend educational events. In 2012–2013, PICNet awarded grants to ten people to attend the PICNet, Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA), and other conferences. PICNet also continues to make the Webber Training series of infection control seminars freely available to the CoP.

Partnerships

PICNet continued to lead and participate in collaborations with experts in Infection Prevention and Control, Public Health and Occupational Health in all health authorities, the MoH, and other organizations, both provincial and national.

PICNet plays an active role in the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG), a comprehensive provincial program that works to improve and sustain hand hygiene compliance rates with the ultimate goal of decreasing HAIs. PICNet has representatives in the main group as well as the Communications, Surveillance, and Education sub-working-groups, and leads the analysis and reporting of the hand hygiene audit data on behalf of the health authorities.

Two of PICNet's staff members have taken on national leadership roles. Bruce Gamage, PICNet's Manager, became president of the CHICA-Canada in January 2013; and Joanne Archer, Educational and Best Practices Coordinator, is co-chairing the national Network of Networks, an interest group under CHICA-Canada. PICNet has also been invited to contribute to several disciplines within First Nations and Inuit Health.

Communications

A communications survey was carried out in March 2012, the results of which were used as the basis for communications planning. The responses were also used in planning changes and updates to the PICNet website, which was further modified to increase ease of navigation and to accommodate the growing suite of resources that PICNet provides to the CoP.

In addition, efforts were made to expand the Community of Practice. The PICNet calendar was mailed out to more than 600 residential care facilities, hospices, aboriginal health centres, and

home/community care nurses; and the PICNet conference was promoted to residential care facilities, nursing organizations, and educational institutions.

PICNet’s efforts for Infection Control week were a great success, with visits to nine residential care facilities across the Lower Mainland. PICNet staff developed new educational games and activities to teach healthcare and auxiliary workers about infection control, and the sessions were extremely well received, with many requests for PICNet to come back to these facilities.

Priorities for 2012–2013

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
To increase the value-add of our HAI Surveillance program, in collaboration with the health authorities.	To expand our educational tools to include an orientation program for new ICPs, and to make the education modules available on the PHSA LearningHub.	To develop tools for CDI case management and surveillance; and to continue to make improvements to MRSA and HH surveillance.	To update the BC 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 infection prevention and control (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 community of practice 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 focuses on the following 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 CoP 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.

New PICNet Terms of Reference

During the spring of 2012, a third party review of PICNet’s governance was carried out. The purpose of the review was to improve the effectiveness of the work that PICNet does to promote the prevention of healthcare-associated infections in BC’s healthcare facilities. Several key stakeholders from across the health authorities were consulted for advice on how to accomplish this.

Based on these recommendations, PICNet’s Terms of Reference (TOR) were revised and have received approval from the Integrated Primary Acute and Community Care Committee (IPACCC) of BC.

With the new TOR, a new Scientific Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC) will be created to replace PICNet’s current Advisory Committee. The SOAC will be comprised of appointed Operational Leads and Scientific Experts. Operational Leads are appointed by each health authority to serve as champions within their own jurisdictions for infection prevention and control. Scientific Experts, including specialists in Medical Microbiology, Occupational and Public Health, Infectious Diseases, and Infection Prevention and Control, will be appointed by the PICNet Management Office to provide expertise in their profession or discipline.

The role of the SOAC is to review and provide advice to PICNet on its strategic directions, and to provide expert advice on best practices for infection prevention and control. The SOAC will assist and support the implementation of best practices within the health authorities, the completion of projects undertaken by PICNet, and PICNet’s HAI surveillance program. The SOAC will also advise on PICNet’s annual workplan and three-year strategic operational plan. These plans will be submitted annually to the Ministry of Health and the IPACCC for review and endorsement. The proposed changes to PICNet’s governance model will enhance PICNet’s role in leading infection prevention and control practice in BC.

The new operations model will serve to strengthen PICNet’s relationships with its partners in the health authorities and the Ministry of Health, and continue to improve the work PICNet undertakes to prevent patients within the healthcare system from acquiring healthcare-associated infections.

PICNet Co-Directors and Staff

Dr. Elizabeth Bryce
Co-Director

Dr. Judith Isaac-Renton
Co-Director

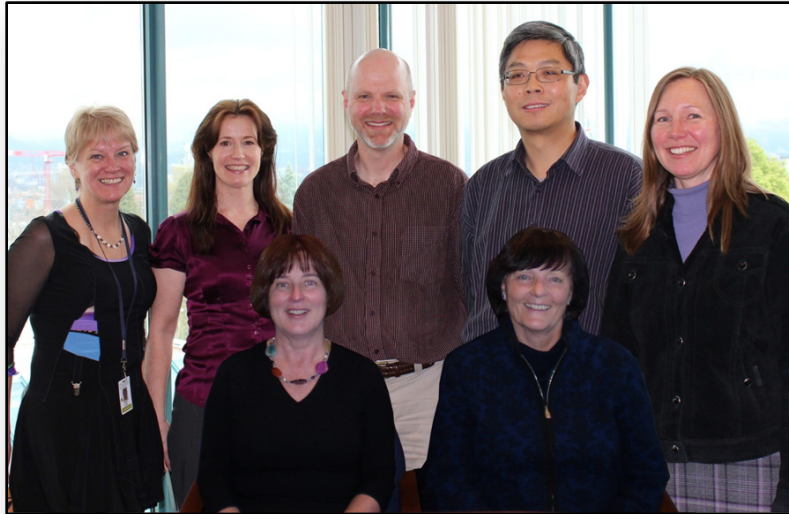
Bruce Gamage
Network Manager

Joanne Archer
Education and Best Practices Coordinator

Dr. Guanghong Han, Surveillance
Epidemiologist

Helen Evans
Communications Coordinator

Susan Brauer
Administrative Assistant



PICNet Co-Directors and Staff

The PICNet organizational chart can be found on the PICNet website at picnet.ca/about-picnet.

PICNet Office Move

PICNet has now moved from its previous City Square location to Broadway and Oak, where it shares offices with Lower Mainland Laboratory Services.

The new address is:
1001 West Broadway, Suite 504
Vancouver, BC V6H 4B1

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet takes on projects requested by the MoH, as well as ones that are requested by the CoP. In 2012–2013, PICNet worked on three projects for the Ministry of Health.

***Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Toolkit**

High CDI rates continue to be a concern in many healthcare facilities in BC. In March 2012, the MoH formally requested that PICNet lead the creation of consistent, evidence-informed, provincial protocols to address the management of individual cases of CDI as well as outbreaks. The deadline given for the completion of the toolkit was September 2012.

Two ad hoc working groups were formed: one for the management of CDI (IPC practices, patient placement, housekeeping, etc.), and another for a treatment protocol. The management group, which included representatives from each health authority, created a draft toolkit consisting of nine documents. The treatment group, which included provincial experts in pharmacy, infectious disease and medical microbiology, developed a treatment algorithm based on severity of CDI. The toolkit, which provides recommendations regarding surveillance, case identification, clinical management, infection prevention and control, and environmental management, was posted for review on the PICNet website in July 2012. A request was sent to all members of the CoP to provide feedback on the documents.

Following the incorporation of the feedback from the CoP, the final document was sent to the Ministry in September 2012, and was approved in March 2013. A policy and communiqué were sent by the MoH to all the health authorities, and the toolkit was posted on the PICNet website. The toolkit can be downloaded from <http://s.picnet.ca/CDItoolkit>.

Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci Discussion Paper

In 2010, Vancouver Island Health Authority discontinued its screening and isolation practices for Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE). Following similar changes in VRE screening and isolation policy in some hospitals in Ontario, two BC health authorities (Fraser Health Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health) also made changes. The BC Patient Safety and Quality Council (BCPSQC) requested that PICNet review current policies around VRE, and prepare a discussion paper with recommendations for VRE screening and isolation procedures for BC healthcare facilities.

In collaboration with the ARO working group and Surveillance Steering Committee, PICNet has developed a discussion paper, which is now in its final stages of review. When it is completed, the paper will be sent to the Ministry of Health for advice on moving forward with VRE policy.

Synthes Trochanter Fixation Nailing System – Packaging Issue Review

In November 2012, a voluntary recall was initiated by Synthes (Canada) Ltd. for all lot numbers of Synthes Nailing Systems™ — a trochanteric fixation nailing system — because the integrity of outer packaging pouch may have been compromised. The Ministry of Health tasked PICNet with gathering a group of experts to discuss the issue and evaluate the level of risk to patients who have already had this product inserted into their bodies.

In December 2012, PICNet convened a group of medical microbiologists, reprocessing, and infection control experts from throughout British Columbia to review this event and evaluate the risk to patients who have already received this product. The group presented their findings to the MoH, recommending that the notification of patients need not occur given the negligible risk.

Best Practice Guidelines

PICNet develops best practice guidelines at the request of the CoP and the MoH. Guidelines are developed by a group of experts with representation from each health authority, using a rigorous development process. All PICNet guidelines undergo a review cycle every 3–4 years to ensure that they contain the most up-to-date, evidence-based recommendations. While PICNet guidelines are developed for use in BC, they are also recognized and utilized nationally.

BC Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning

In 2011, the MoH requested that PICNet complete a review of provincial housekeeping practices in BC healthcare facilities. The project, which involved participation from all the health authorities, reviewed the criteria that are used by health authorities to determine the type and frequency of cleaning of contact surfaces; the education provided to housekeeping staff; and housekeeping auditing methods. The findings of this report showed there was a lack of standardization of practices across the province. Based on the findings of this report, the MoH requested in August 2012 that PICNet lead the development of a set of best practice guidelines for environmental cleaning from an IPC perspective. The new guidelines build upon current initiatives underway within the health authorities and ensure that, regardless of the service provider, environmental cleaning will meet the minimum quality standards needed to contribute to the prevention and control of infections.

Following Ministry endorsement, these best practice standards will be implemented across the health authorities. The project, which is a collaboration between the Ministry, PICNet, and all BC health authorities, is scheduled for completion in April 2013. A draft document was posted for review by the CoP in February 2013, and the edited document was submitted to the Ministry in March 2013.

Revision of Guidelines for Managing AROs in Healthcare Settings

PICNet's guidelines for the management of antibiotic resistant organisms (AROs) were created in 2008, and an update was needed to reflect new developments and findings. This revision commenced in 2011. PICNet partnered with the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Therapeutics (CADTH) to perform a systematic review of the current literature, and then using these same key questions, PICNet partnered with the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia health librarians to search for and review other related studies for ARO management issues.

The literature reviews were used by the ARO revisions committee as the basis for the new document. In January 2013, the draft document was shared with the CoP for review and comment, and in March 2013, the new guidelines were finalized and posted on the PICNet website (<http://s.picnet.ca/AROguidelines>).

While the ARO revision process was under way, the Ministry of Health requested that PICNet create the position paper on VRE screening and isolation practices; this paper was also used to inform the provincial recommendations provided in the ARO guidelines.

Surveillance

In 2012–2013, under the leadership of surveillance epidemiologist Dr. Guanghong Han, PICNet continued to lead the data collection, analysis, and reporting of CDI, MRSA, and hand hygiene compliance data in BC.

In November 2012, PICNet released its fourth annual report for CDI surveillance, and its first annual report for MRSA. These reports provide important information to both the health authorities and the MoH, allowing the ability to track trends in the healthcare impacts of these two epidemiologically important organisms.



PICNet has been working with its partners in the health authorities to explore ways that the surveillance data and reports can add value for the provincial infection prevention and control program, in particular through a more streamlined data reporting process, improved data quality and increased frequency of public reporting.

The feedback PICNet received from the CoP showed that people wanted to receive briefer, more current reports. To meet this need, PICNet increased public reporting of CDI and MRSA surveillance results from bi-annually to quarterly (and hand hygiene compliance reports were quarterly from the outset). The new quarterly reports provide updates on healthcare-associated CDI and MRSA in each health authority, while the annual reports include facility-level data, as well as more discussion and interpretation of the data.

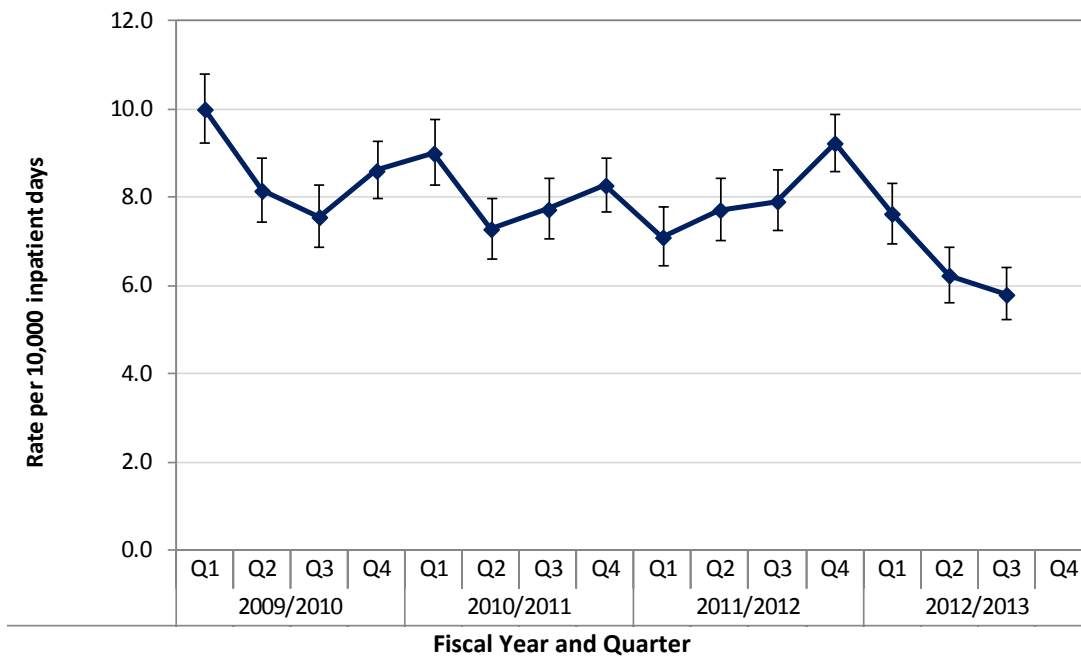
PICNet works closely with the hospital epidemiologists from across the health authorities to ensure that the data being collecting are relevant and consistent as the surveillance program matures. The provincial surveillance protocols for CDI and MRSA were reviewed in 2012–2013. PICNet's Surveillance Steering Committee, which consists of epidemiologists and representatives of PICNet, health authorities, and related organizations, held a half-day meeting in March 2013 to revise the provincial surveillance protocol and address the issues in surveillance practice. Progress was made in improving the quality of the data, streamlining the data reporting process, and keeping the reports as current, useful and informative as possible.

CDI Surveillance

High CDI rates continue to be a concern in BC healthcare facilities. The provincial CDI surveillance program continues to provide comprehensive reports for tracking the incidence and trend of CDI rates across the province. During the media interest around CDI rates in Fraser Health in spring 2012, PICNet was able to rapidly release its semi-annual CDI report. This report was used extensively by the health authorities and the Ministry to address the concerns raised. Having several years of accumulated data, which showed that the rates are trending downward, was extremely useful to the MoH and the health authorities.

The graph below shows the number of new cases and rate of CDI associated with the reporting facility, by fiscal year and quarter in BC. (The full report can be accessed at <http://s.picnet.ca/cdireports>.)

New CDI cases in BC Acute Care Hospitals



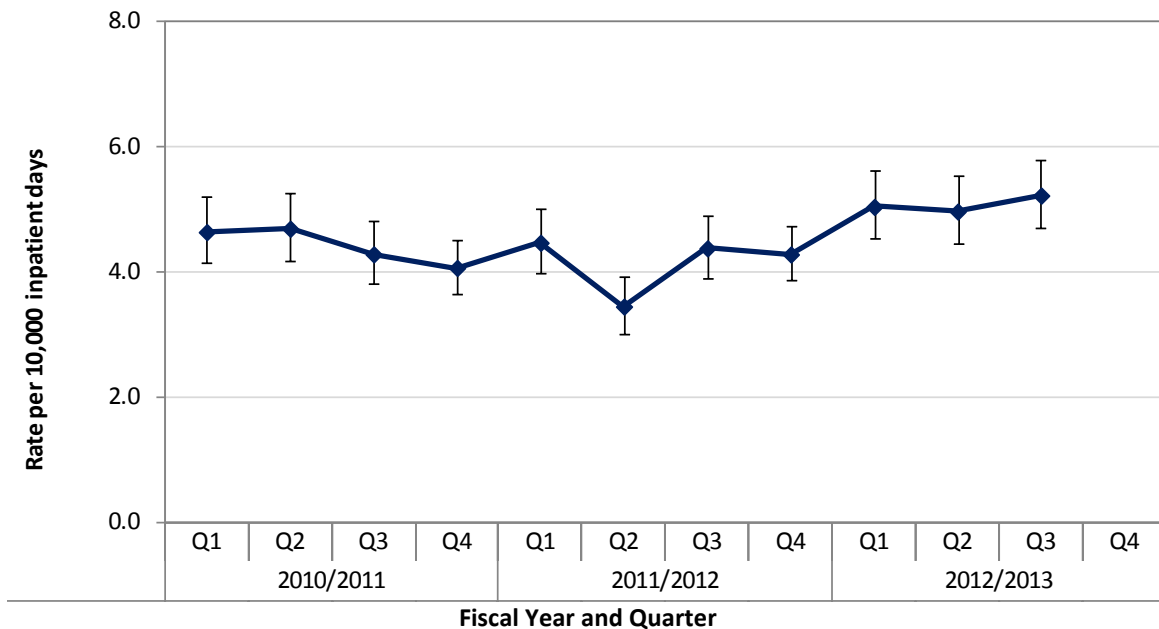
Notes: Bars in the line chart represent 95% confidence interval of the rates. Data were aggregated by fiscal quarter for each health authority except PHSA, which aggregated the data by calendar quarter (Q3, October 1 – December 31, 2012). Laboratory testing for detection of *C. difficile* and application of case definition varied over time and by health authority.

MRSA Surveillance

MRSA continues to have an impact both within the health authorities and the communities. Although MRSA has been followed for many years, this data has not been reported provincially. Provincial MRSA data collection began in 2011, and the first provincial surveillance report was released in April 2012.

The graph on the next page 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>.)

New MRSA cases in BC Acute Care Hospitals



Notes: Bars in the line chart represent 95% confidence interval of the rates.
 Data were aggregated by fiscal quarter for each health authority except PHSA, which aggregated the data by calendar quarter. Case finding strategy and application of case classification for MRSA surveillance may vary over time and by health authority

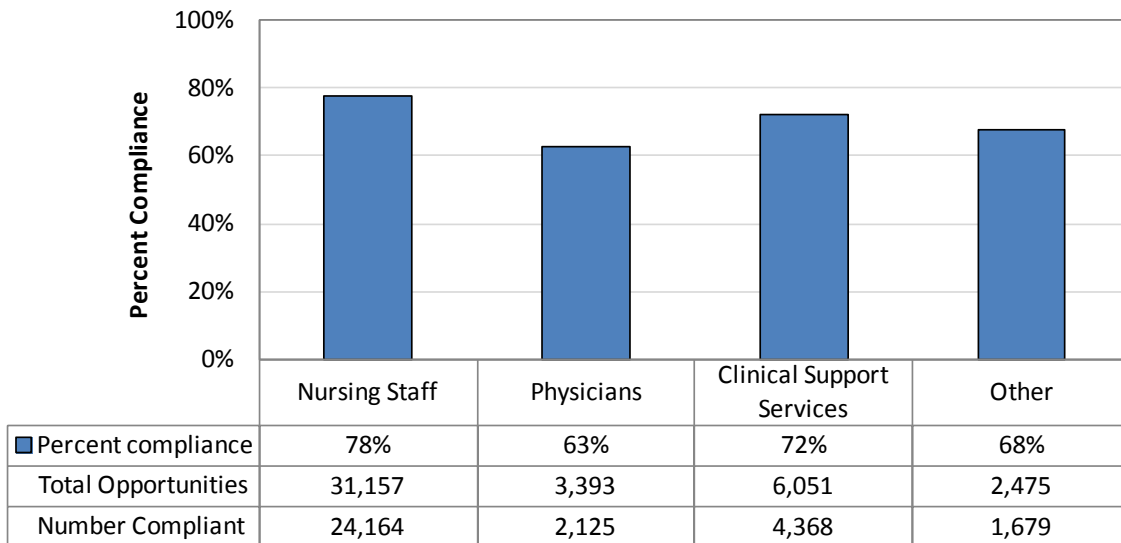
Hand Hygiene Compliance

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

In collaboration with PHHWG, PICNet collects audit data on behalf of the province, conducts the analyses, and prepares the consolidated provincial reports. The public reporting of these data has been mandated by the MoH, and the first annual report was publicly released in July 2012. Since then, three quarterly updates have been released, the most recent in February 2013.

The graph on the next page shows hand cleaning compliance by healthcare worker for Q3 of 2012/2013. (The full report can be accessed at <http://s.picnet.ca/hhreports>.)

Provincial hand cleaning compliance by healthcare worker, Quarter 3 of 2012/2013



National prevalence survey of antibiotic-resistant organisms in Canadian hospitals

In 2010, the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association-Canada (CHICA) and the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) co-sponsored a project to identify the overall prevalence of AROs in acute care hospitals across Canada. A national survey of point-prevalence of MRSA, VRE and CDI among adult patients was carried out.

A second phase of the survey began in 2012, and PICNet's Surveillance Epidemiologist was appointed as a co-investigator to represent CHICA. During the year, the group discussed the study protocol including questionnaires for hospitals and patients; finalized the study protocol; recruited hospitals to participate; and launched the survey. The survey was conducted in November 2012, and in March 2013 a preliminary analysis of the survey results and comparison to 2010 survey was sent out to the participating hospitals.

AROs lead to excess morbidity and mortality, outbreaks, increased lengths of hospital stay, and bed-blocking in healthcare facilities. The treatment and prevention of these infections are associated with significant increased direct and indirect costs to Canadian hospitals and society at large. Although CNISP has provided incidence data, the surveillance involves a relatively small number of healthcare facilities, which are primarily tertiary-care teaching hospitals. The ARO Point Prevalence Study is a study designed to assess the prevalence of antimicrobial resistant organisms in Canadian hospitals. This study differs from CNISP studies in that it focuses on prevalence, not incidence, and that it will include non-CNISP hospitals. A point prevalence survey including all possible Canadian hospitals, when combined with existing CNISP data and data from other provincial and regional surveillance systems, will assist public health officials and acute care hospitals in priority setting and future resource allocation, site-specific benchmarking, and infection control planning.

PICNet's surveillance reports can be found at <http://www.picnet.ca/surveillance-research>.



Education

Healthcare professionals are required to undertake continuing education every year. PICNet provides education resources and opportunities, such as the PICNet conference, fall education day, 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 across the spectrum of care: acute care, long-term care, public health, and occupational health. PICNet also provides in-services to specific health care provider groups and education institutes upon request.

Education Modules

Infection Control Professional Orientation Manual

In Canada, training opportunities for healthcare professionals new to the field of infection prevention and control were limited: there was no standard comprehensive orientation program for newly hired healthcare providers to learn the function of an Infection Control Professional (ICP). To address this issue, PICNet collaborated with a group of ICPs from across Canada to create an orientation program for new ICPs. The Orientation Manual for New Infection Control Professionals is designed to provide the new ICP with enough basic knowledge and skills to enable them to begin their practice while waiting to register for an accredited infection control course. The manual, which is divided into ten modules, was posted on the PICNet website in June 2012. The modules can be freely downloaded by anyone, including non-health authority affiliated workers, and healthcare providers from outside of BC.

PICNet Modules on the PHSA Learning Hub

PICNet received many requests from members of the CoP to provide certificates of completion for the PICNet online educational modules. The current PICNet website does not allow any way of tracking users. To address this need, PICNet began adding the modules to the PHSA LearningHub. The LearningHub had recently changed its login requirements so that anyone (not just PHSA employees) can create a LearningHub account. This allows non-affiliated healthcare providers, volunteers, etc. to take the modules available on the LearningHub, track their progress, and receive certificates.

PICNet's communications coordinator worked closely with the LearningHub manager to upload the modules and re-create certification tests where necessary. The LearningHub IT team also created customized certificates for PICNet. The Infection Control Basics and Provincial Hand Hygiene modules were launched on the LearningHub in January 2013, and the remaining modules in April 2013.

PICNet will now be able to track how many learners have used each module. The modules will also continue to be hosted on the PICNet website, offering the opportunity to access them without creating a LearningHub account, should they wish. The education modules, as well as links to their LearningHub locations, can be found at <http://s.picnet.ca/edmodules>.

Provincial Hand Hygiene Module

In 2012, the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group's education sub-committee developed an online hand hygiene training module. In July, the module was posted on the PICNet website, as well as on other health authority websites. In January 2012, PICNet made the module available on the PHSA LearningHub. Since then, 347 people have accessed used this module via the LearningHub.

Infection Control Basics Module

In 2012, following the development of the Provincial Hand Hygiene online education module, members of the PHHWG suggested that Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Basics module should be updated. PICNet convened a group to review the module and provide input. Based on the group's input, PICNet drafted the storyboard for the new module and worked with Vancouver Coastal Health to have the online module and test created. The revised IC Basics module was posted on the PHSA LearningHub in January 2013, and promoted to the Community of Practice. From January–March, 453 users accessed the module via the LearningHub.

Conferences and Events

PICNet Educational Conference

PICNet hosted its fifth successful educational conference, titled “Bridging the Pillars: Moving Forward Together”, at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in downtown Vancouver in April 2012. The conference brought together 130 delegates, 14 speakers, and 18 exhibiting organizations. The theme of the conference was to explore ways that Infection Prevention and Control, Occupational Health, Public Health and Patient Quality and Safety can work together to prevent healthcare-associated infections and provide better outcomes for the patients in BC's healthcare system. This conference had increased representation from Residential Care Facilities, Occupational Health, and Environmental Health

In one interactive session, participants explored the various roles involved in the provision of IPC Services in BC, and looked at how the three pillars might align more effectively. Following a group discussion, the delegates were asked to answer two questions: (1) If all your services were aligned effectively to provide infection control what do you believe might be possible? and (2) What are one or two pieces of advice you would give your system? PICNet later prepared a report based on the results of this discussion, which was shared with the Ministry's Provincial Infection Control Working Group to inform its development of recommendations for a provincial framework. The report is also publicly available on the PICNet website at <http://s.picnet.ca/2012conf>.

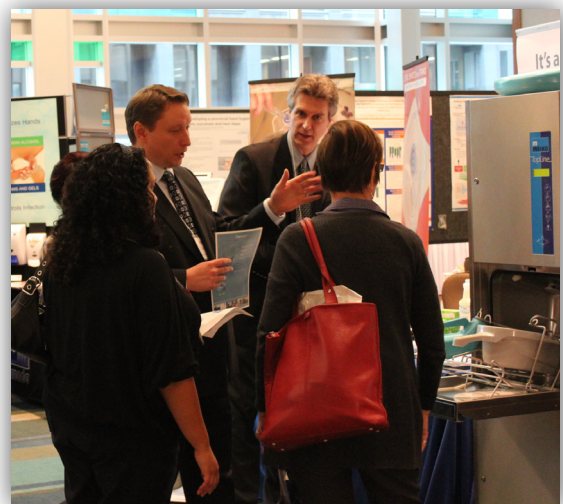


“It was great to have technical and scientific information delivered in an easily understandable way.”

“It was great. I always find this one of the best conferences.”

“Best of this year that I have attended!”

(from 2012 conference evaluation)



Education Day

In October 2012, PICNet hosted a free, half-day education session sponsored by Sage Products. Melissa Crump of Vancouver Coastal Health and Missy Blackburn of Interior Health presented the workshop on *Transforming Change in Healthcare: Rediscovering Your Creative Side*, which focused on engaging point-of-care workers in quality improvement. The workshop taught participants about “liberating structures”, including TRIZ, improvisation, “wise crowds”, and the 25/10 process.



“I really enjoyed the workshop and thought it provided different practical techniques for engaging the workplace staff.”

(from Education Day evaluation)

“A very interesting and useful workshop. Definitely tools that I can use and take back to the workplace.”

(from Education Day evaluation)

Infection Control Week

For National Infection Control Week (October 14-21, 2012), PICNet offered educational in-services to its partners in Residential Care Facilities. These facilities for the most part lack infection control education resources. To make the Infection Control Week visits more targeted and educational than in previous years, PICNet staff developed quizzes and games designed to engage and educate frontline healthcare workers and auxiliary staff in basic infection control practices.

During the week, PICNet staff visited nine facilities and provided education to more than 300 staff across the Lower Mainland, as well as three facilities in the central interior of BC. The sessions were interactive, entertaining, and educational, and received much positive feedback. Getinge Products provided sponsorship in the form of lending PICNet some of their Safe Step readers and providing free swabs; using these, PICNet staff developed a “Germ CSI” game that was a huge hit with the participants.



Based on how well received the sessions were, PICNet is looking at offering the in-service as a “teaching package” next year so that the persons responsible for IPC in the Residential Care facilities can run the sessions themselves, thus widening PICNet’s reach to the Residential Care community.

“I literally could not walk down the hallway for people stopping to tell me how fabulous the workshops were.”

“I wanted to tell you again just how great your infection control week sessions were. My staff are very vocal, and they’ve been telling me all day that those were the perfect kind of training sessions: easy, simple, fun, interactive, and they really did learn a lot.”

Infection Control Week Song Contest

Because PICNet staff were only able to offer the in-services sessions to facilities in the lower mainland, PICNet also ran an online contest for infection control week, with entries open to any healthcare worker in BC. The challenge consisted of writing lyrics for an infection control song. Thirteen very creative entries were received, and PICNet staff selected the winning entry. All entries were posted to the PICNet website during National Infection Control Week, to engage as many people as possible.

PICNet’s new Infection Control Week resources, as well as photos of the workshops, can be found at <http://s.picnet.ca/icweek2012>.

CHICA-Canada Educational Conference

PICNet hosted an informational booth at the annual Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA)-Canada Educational Conference, held June 17–21 2012 in Saskatoon.

Education Resource Fund

Consistent with its role in supporting infection prevention and control education and training, PICNet continues to administer an Education Resource Fund. This fund provides educational grants to members of the CoP, which consists of all healthcare professionals in 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 PICNet’s Advisory Committee scored the applications and decided upon the minimum score for funding. In 2012, PICNet was able to provide funding for 7 members of the CoP to attend conferences and courses.

2012 Education Fund Recipients

Name	Organization	Activity
Bonnie Schurack	University Hospital of Northern BC / Northern Health Authority	PICNet conference
Eileen Lavoie	Vernon Jubilee Hospital	PICNet conference
Elisa Lloyd-Smith	Providence Health Care	CHICA conference
Holly-Lynn Nelson	Quesnel Health Service Delivery Area	PICNet conference
Kelsi Laporte	BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre	CHICA conference
Norberto Peralta	Haro Park Care Centre	Canada Online Novice Infection Prevention & Control course
Sylvia Eaton	University Hospital of Northern BC	PICNet

In-Services and Presentations

PICNet staff gave presentations and in-services to several groups during 2012–2013:

- BC Renal Educators group
- Provincial Radiology Technologists
- Renal Society Patient group.
- PHSA Interpreters
- NHA Nurse Educators
- First Nations and Inuit Health Community Nurses Conference
- College of New Caledonia (Health Sciences studies and LPNs)
- Residential care facilities (Rosewood, Jubilee, Simon Fraser)
- Medical Office Assistants Study Group (Langley)
- Dental Assistants/Hygienist Study Group (Vancouver-Dunbar)

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 2012–2013, a total of 44 teleclasses were broadcast. Since September 2012, PICNet has had the ability to track how many lines were joined to the PICNet teleconference bridge line; from September to March, there were an average of 14 lines per live class (and there may have been multiple people listening via each line).



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

In addition, the Webber page of the PICNet website was redesigned to allow for easier navigation to archived teleclasses, and to speed up page load time.

Partnerships and Participation in Provincial/ National Groups

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 health authorities 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 supports 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.



In 2012–2013, PICNet continued to lead the collection and reporting of hand hygiene compliance rates from the regional health authorities; draft the reports; write issues notes; and post the provincial reports on the PICNet website.

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

CHICA Partnerships

CHICA-Canada

PICNet Manager Bruce Gamage became President-Elect of CHICA-Canada in 2012, and assumed his presidency in January 2013. Under his leadership, CHICA-Canada is undergoing a review of the role of the Board of Directors: The Board is working to move CHICA ahead to being recognized as the leading force behind infection prevention and control initiatives in Canada. The 1600-strong membership of CHICA-Canada is made up of leaders in the profession from across the country who are in a position to have a strong influence on the direction taken by both government and healthcare leaders in supporting infection prevention and control and the improvement of patient safety within Canada's healthcare system.



All PICNet staff are members of CHICA-Canada and play active roles in supporting national infection prevention and control initiatives. PICNet Education and Best Practices Coordinator, Joanne Archer, is a co-chair of the national Network of Networks, an interest group of CHICA.

First Nations and Inuit Health

PICNet’s Education and Best Practices Coordinator, Joanne Archer, has been developing relationships with our partners in First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH). She presented at their annual conference, where she shared information about PICNet and made new contacts. PICNet has been a resource for leaders in FNIH for several years, and will continue to be a resource as BC moves into creating a First Nations health authority in BC. In addition, the PICNet calendar was mailed to many First Nations health centres and community nurses.

Other Committees and Working Groups

PICNet staff also participate in the following committees and working groups:

- Provincial Pandemic Stock Management Working Group
- Provincial Antibiotic Stewardship Clinical Expert Group
- Provincial TB Nurse Advisory Committee
- NHA Regional Infection Prevention and Control Committee
- CHICA-BC
- CHICA-VI
- Health Quality Network Communications Group

Communications

Website Updates

The PICNet website continues to be modified as more information and resources are made available to the CoP. New pages have been added to better organize the information, and several features have been added to allow for better security and user experience.

- Several new resource pages were created, including: *Infection Control Week Resources, Infection Control Posters, Infection Control Two-Pagers, Hand Hygiene Resources, and Environmental Cleaning Resources.*
- A *News* page was created to post the latest infection control news and advisories.
- The *Practice Guidelines* page was reorganized.
- The *Webber Training* page was redesigned to allow for easier access to the archived recordings.
- A *Latest Surveillance Reports* page was created to allow the media to easily find the most recent version of each of the surveillance reports (CDI, MRSA, and Hand Hygiene Compliance).



Secure Download Site

Based on the Ministry of Health’s concern that the draft Environmental Cleaning Practices document should not be publicly available while it was posted for review by the Community of Practice, PICNet created a secure download site. Instead of posting draft documents on the public PICNet site, they are now posted to a secure site where reviewers must enter a username and password to access any documents requiring review.

Custom URL shortener

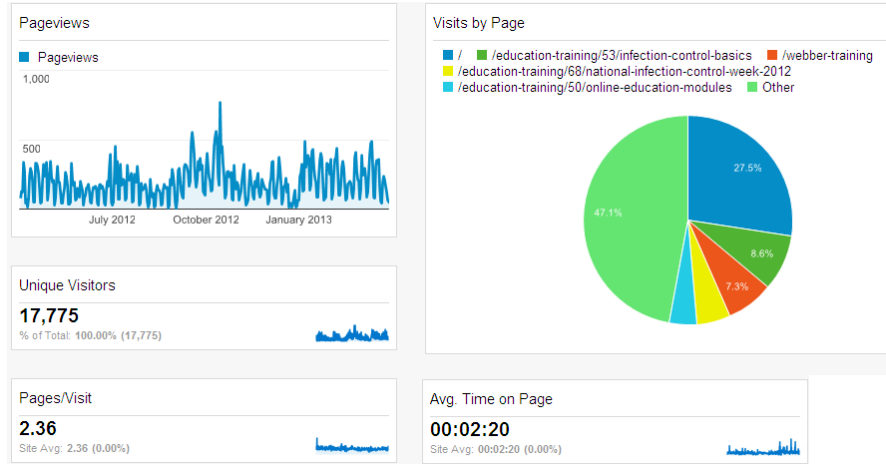
When URLs are placed in printed documents, they are often lengthy, making it difficult for readers to re-type the address into their browser. To make it easier for people to locate PICNet web pages and documents that are referenced in printed documents, PICNet worked with their web developer to create a custom URL shortener for PICNet. Links to documents, in particular, can be simplified this way, such as: <http://s.picnet.ca/AROGuidelines>.

Google Analytics

Google Analytics had been running on the PICNet website since its redesign in 2012; however, custom metrics were needed in order to make the analytics more useful.

In 2013, Helen Evans, PICNet’s Communications Coordinator, posted an analytics project plan on Google Analytics Exchange, a platform where analytics experts volunteer their time to not-for-profit organizations, and tutor mentors in analytics. The volunteer mentor and student

worked with Helen to develop custom reports and advanced segments, based on PICNet’s questions about its website audience and usage. The project, which was completed in March 2013, allows PICNet to gain a better understanding of who is using the website (what countries, provinces, regions, etc.), what pages



are viewed the most/least, which reports are downloaded the most, etc. This will inform website development and further communications planning.

In 2012-2013, the PICNet website had more than 51,000 page views, 7,900 unique visitors, and 4,600 document downloads. The most viewed pages included the education modules, Webber training, the PICNet conference, Infection Control Week resources, and practice guidelines.

Communications Survey and Planning

PICNet conducted a communications survey in spring 2012. A total of 161 responses were received, from across the healthcare pillars (acute care, public health, residential care, workplace health and safety, administration, home care / community care, laboratory, and “other”). The survey asked for respondent information (job title, years in IPC, etc.) to gain a better understanding of who makes up PICNet’s current CoP, and then asked questions about the new PICNet website (launched January 2012), the PICNet newsletter, how people prefer to receive information from PICNet, the online education modules, PICNet’s annual conference, promotional materials, and other comments about communications from/with PICNet.

The responses were used to guide communications planning, website changes, the creation of new promotional materials, conference planning, and promotion of PICNet to other healthcare workers. The development of a formalized communications plan is under way.

Other communications work continued in the form of preparing reports for PHSA Executive, working closely with PHSA Corporate Communications for the release of surveillance reports,

and collaborating with other health authorities on other communications projects such as the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group Communications Sub-Committee and the Health Quality Network Communications Committee.

“I think PICNet provides increasingly useful support every year.”

(from 2012 Communications Survey)

“PICNet is my number one resource for IP&C info... great work!”

(from 2012 Communications Survey)

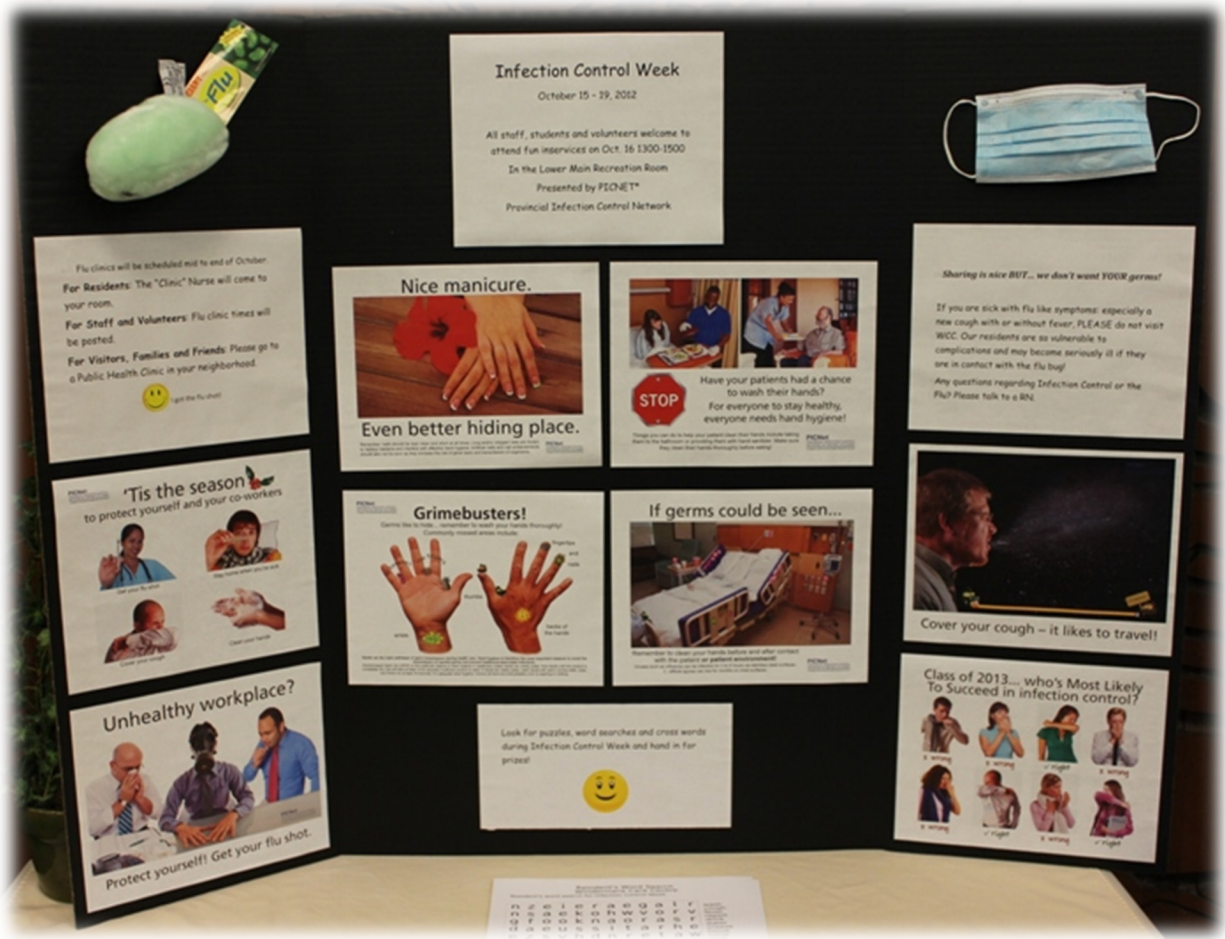
PICNet Educational Calendar

In the previous year, the PICNet calendar had been completely redesigned to become more of an educational tool. For the 2012/2013 calendar, the PICNet staff met to discuss the main infection control issues and challenges they face when educating healthcare workers about infection control, so that the calendar could be built around real issues. The list included:

- Risk assessment
- Correct use of PPE
- Removing PPE after use
- Hand hygiene before and after glove use
- ABHR versus soap and water
- Transmission of pathogens via fomites
- Patient hand hygiene (especially before eating)
- Influenza vaccination
- Cough etiquette
- Staying home from work when sick
- The ‘we are too clean’ myth

The calendar messages were developed to address each of these points. The calendar was a great success, with requests coming in from across the country for more copies of the calendars — to the point that PICNet had to order a second print run!

In addition, some of the facilities PICNet visited during Infection Control Week had cut up their 2012 calendars to make into posters. Based on this feedback, PICNet made the calendar pictures available as PDF posters that are downloadable from the PICNet website (<http://s.picnet.ca/posters>).



PICNet Calendar made into posters, at a Residential Care facility

PICNet in the Media

PICNet received many enquiries from the media this past year, in particularly in February and March regarding Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), HAI rates, and hand hygiene compliance rates. Bruce Gamage gave several interviews: on-air for radio; by telephone for print; and in person for a TV segment. The interviews were with CBC Daybreak North, CBC Radio Victoria and City TV. Print articles were in The Province and The Georgia Straight.

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary of Acronyms

ARO	antibiotic resistant organism
BC	British Columbia
BCPSQC	British Columbia Patient and Safety Quality Council
CADTH	Canadian Agency for Drugs and Therapeutics
CDI	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection
CHICA	Community and Hospital Infection Control Association–Canada
CNISP	Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program
CoP	Community of Practice
CRE	Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae
FNIH	First Nations and Inuit Health
HAI	healthcare-associated infection
ICP	infection control professional/practitioner
IPACCC	Integrated Primary Acute and Community Care Committee
IPC	infection prevention and control
MoH	Ministry of Health
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
PHHWG	Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group
PHSA	Provincial Health Services Authority
PICNet	Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia
SOAC	Scientific Operations Advisory Committee
TOR	terms of reference
VRE	Vancomycin-Resistant <i>Enterococci</i>

Appendix B: Goals and Objectives

Strategic Direction #1 – Building Partnerships			
Goal	Objectives	Actions	Milestones
<p>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.</p>	<p>Increase awareness about PICNet opportunities and initiatives among healthcare providers</p>	<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 residential care facilities in the lower mainland, and exhibited at the 2012 CHICA-Canada annual conference. • In spring 2012, PICNet conducted a communications survey to find out how well we are communicating with the CoP, and how we can improve. • PICNet mailed its educational calendar to more than 600 residential care facilities, aboriginal health centres, and home/community care nurses.
	<p>Collaborate with healthcare organizations and groups across the continuum of care on IPC issues</p>	<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. • PICNet is establishing relationships with individuals in BC’s FN communities as they develop their new health authority.

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 annual MRSA report was released in December 2012. Provincial Hand Hygiene Compliance Surveillance was launched as part of the PHHWG in 2011; the first report was 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 a provincial guideline for Best Practices in Environmental Cleaning. • The Antibiotic Resistant Organisms guidelines have been updated. • PICNet prepared a discussion paper on VRE management.

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"> • PICNet, in collaboration with the health authorities, created the CDI Toolkit. • An Infection Control Practitioner orientation manual was created. • The PICNet Education Modules were migrated to the PHSA Learning Hub so that more people can find and use them. • New downloadable resources were created, such as the infection control two-pagers, brochure, and posters.
		<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 took place in April 2012. • PICNet hosted an Education Day on the topic of Positive Deviance in November 2012.

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 on relevant educational projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Make the education modules available on the PHSA LearningHub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICNet's website was modified based on results of the communications survey. PICNet provided access to 44 Webber teleclasses in 2012/2013. Funding was provided for 7 members of the CoP to attend educational events. Two new/updated education modules were posted on the PICNet website, and all education modules were made available on the LearningHub. New infection control resources were created, including downloadable posters, an educational calendar, infection control two-pagers, and games/activities for Infection Control Week.

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 requests from the MoH: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC Health Authority Housekeeping Policies and Procedures for Infection Control CDI Toolkit Evaluation of risk related to trochanteric fixation nailing system packaging issue

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

Working Groups

PICNet wishes to thank the many working groups that provided invaluable advice and collaboration throughout the year:

- CDI Toolkit Working Group
- ARO Best Practices Working Group
- Best Practices in Environmental Cleaning Group
- ICP Orientation Manual Working Group
- Trochanteric Nailing System Risk Assessment Working Group

We also wish to thank the Community of Practice for reviewing the draft documents that were posted for review throughout the year, and the PHSA LearningHub team for their work on migrating the PICNet education modules to the LearningHub.

PICNet

PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority



**Provincial Health
Services Authority**

Province-wide solutions.
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