



Dear xxx

We are pleased to share with you the newly revised Long Term Care (LTC) infection surveillance definitions for use in the Canadian healthcare system.

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute and the Public Health Agency of Canada hosted a national infection prevention and control (IPAC) summit in November 2014. Over 40 participants came together with the goal of advancing IPAC practices and reducing healthcare-associated infections in Canada. At this meeting, measurement and surveillance, specifically improving consistency in surveillance practices across the country, surfaced as a key theme and an action plan was created. Under the leadership of Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) and the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada (AMMI Canada) a committee was created to help establish and implement standard healthcare infection surveillance definitions for healthcare associated infections (HAI) in acute care and long term care (LTC).

Members of IPAC Canada's Surveillance and Epidemiology (SAEIG) and Long Term Care (LTC) Interest Groups and the L'Association des infirmières en prévention des infections (APII) formed a working group to revise the existing Stone et al (2012) LTC infection surveillance definitions based on the Canadian healthcare system and an increase in evidence-based literature about types of infection in the elderly population in LTC settings. The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) guideline development methodology was used to revise the definitions.

We are now sharing these definitions widely with our colleagues across Canada with the aim to improve consistency in surveillance practices within the LTC setting. The definitions will also be shared with our colleagues in the USA through the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

If you have any questions, Jennifer Happe, chair of the SAEIG can be reached at [Jennifer.Happe@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Happe@albertahealthservices.ca).

Sincerely,

Molly Blake BN MHS CIC  
President, IPAC Canada

Caroline Quach MD MSc FRCPC FSHEA  
President, AMMI Canada



1. Stone, N. D., Ashraf, M. S., Calder, J., Crnich, C. J., Crossley, K., Drinka, P. J., et al. (2012). Surveillance definitions of infections in long-term care facilities: revisiting the McGeer criteria. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, 33(10), 965-977.