

**3M Chapter Award Submission for CHICA-Southern Alberta**

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## Description of CHICA-Southern Alberta

### **Purpose**

The purpose of CHICA-SA is to promote Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) as a clinical specialty that is an integral part of total health care delivery.

### **Objectives:**

- To act as a resource and/or educator for community-based and area health care facilities related to Infection Prevention and Control issues.
- To facilitate professional development of Chapter members in Infection Prevention and Control.
- To support and participate as a Chapter of the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA-Canada).
- To enhance communication amongst professionals with a common interest in Infection Prevention and Control.

### **Membership**

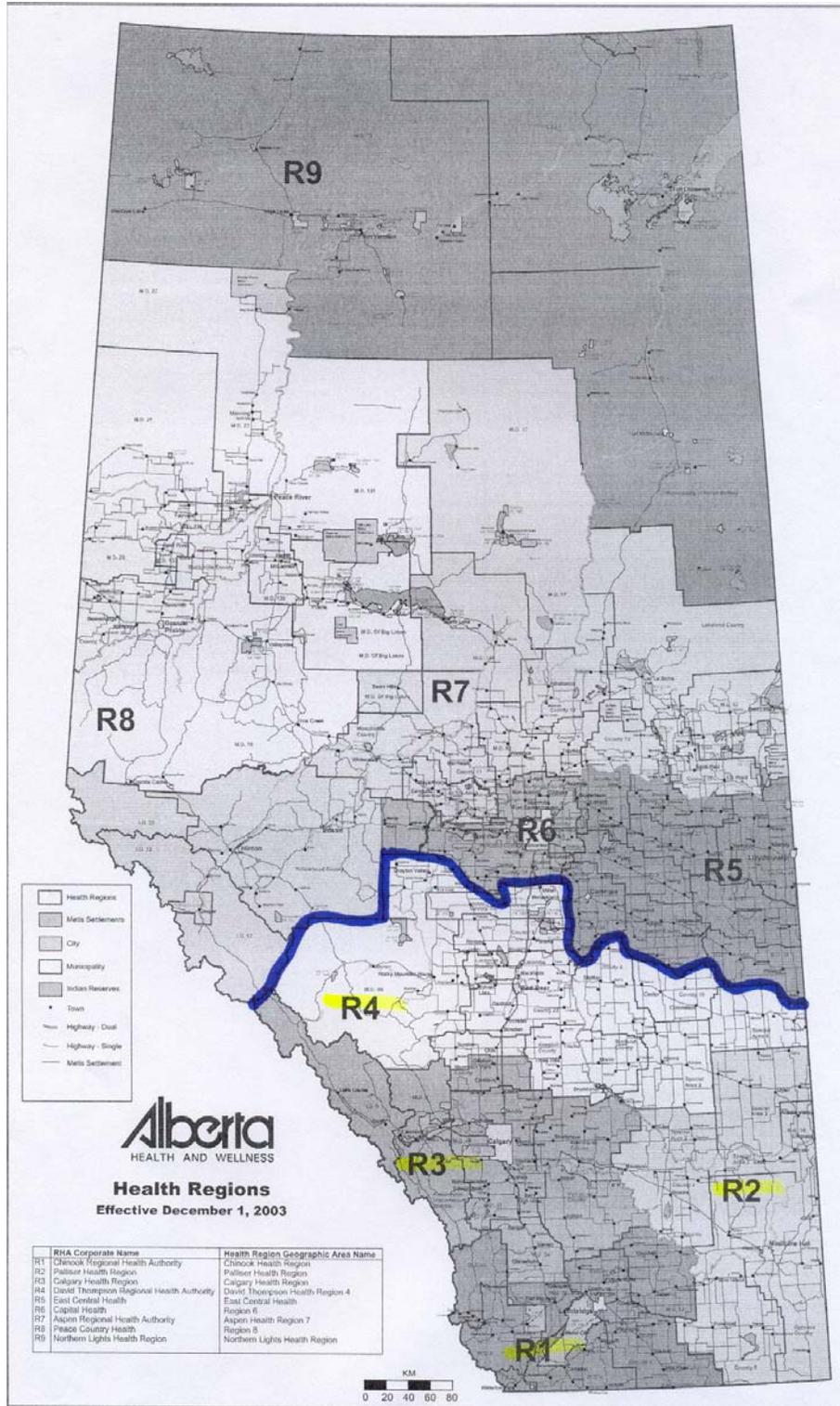
CHICA-SA is comprised of 42 members, all of whom are members of CHICA-Canada. CHICA-Canada awarded the Chapter a complimentary 2005 membership for achieving a 35% increase in Chapter membership in 2003-2004.

CHICA-SA has representation from all health regions in Southern Alberta including Chinook Health Region (Lethbridge), Palliser Health Region (Medicine Hat), Calgary Health Region, and the David Thompson Health Region (Red Deer) (see attached map).

As well as broad geographic distribution, CHICA-SA members also originate from different sectors of the health care community, including acute care (74%), long term care (10%), community care (14%) and government (2%).

Ten meetings are held annually, with 2 incorporating a social function as well as a business meeting. One meeting per year is held jointly with CHICA-Northern Alberta in Red Deer, where regional issues of mutual interest are discussed and resource-sharing occurs (see attached minutes from the 2004 joint CHICA-SA/CHICA-NA meeting). Education is a high priority for the CHICA-SA membership. CHICA-SA members are encouraged to present these sessions and share their areas of expertise with the group (see Table 1 for 2004 education sessions).

**Figure 1: Map of CHICA-SA Region**



## **Goals of CHICA-SA Chapter in 2004**

CHICA-SA members' goals for 2004 were advancement of knowledge in Infection Prevention and Control through innovative approaches to education, partnership with other health care providers, and through engagement with IP&C practitioners at a national level through CHICA-Canada.

## **Achievements of CHICA-SA Chapter in 2004**

### **Education**

CHICA-SA members participated in a number of educational initiatives in addition to the 2004 Conjoint Conference. These activities included graduate-level training in IP&C, seminars, newsletters, information sheets, educational video production, and websites.

Specifically, the following activities occurred:

#### *Masters Program in Hospital Epidemiology*

Dr. E.A. Henderson is the program coordinator for this graduate level program through the Community Health Sciences department of the University of Calgary. In 2004, there were 5 Master's students and 1 PhD candidate (See Appendix B). Several members of CHICA-SA participate as lecturers in the program (Dr. T. Louie, Dr. M. Mah, K. Hope, N. Alfieri, S. Strople, G. Myers).

#### *CHICA-Canada Education Activities*

Dr. Henderson is also the Director of Education for CHICA-Canada. In this role, she has developed 2 on-line courses on Surveillance (see Appendix C), and she has also compiled a list of all university-level IP&C courses available (on the CHICA-Canada website). She has recently completed a 6 month sabbatical during which she has developed a model for future IP&C education in Canada (see Appendix D).

#### *Mentorship*

- All members of CHICA-SA recognize the need for mentorship of new IP&C practitioners and students.
  - The Calgary Health Region has an active practicum program for both Infectious Disease residents and for graduate students in the Hospital Epidemiology program. In addition, the Calgary Health Region has an orientation program for new employees.
  - The David Thompson Health Region has developed a 10 week orientation plan for new employees.

### *CHICA-SA Monthly Education Sessions*

An important component of each monthly CHICA-SA meeting is the education session. The following table shows 2004 activities.

*Table 1: CHICA-SA Monthly Education Sessions*

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 2004	K. Bush	Mapping STI in the CHR
February 2004	G. Myers	Survivor: Dress for Success
March 2004	Calgary Conjoint Conference planning	
April 2004	Calgary Conjoint Conference planning	
May 2004	Calgary Conjoint Conference planning	
September 2004	M. McKenzie	How would we do with SARS?
September 2004	Dr. E.A. Henderson	CHICA Education initiatives
October 2004	K. Bush	Microbiology Made Manageable
November 2004	P. Armstrong/H. McLaren	Home Care IP&C

### *Newsletters and Information Sheets*

Several newsletters were produced by CHICA-SA members for distribution in various health regions. These included the Calgary Health Region (2 newsletters), and David Thompson Health Region ("Bug Bytes"). In addition, patient information sheets were produced on topics such as *C. difficile* infection and Contact Isolation Precautions for Patients and Visitors (see attached examples).

### *Education Opportunities*

- "The Bug Stops Here": an IP&C workshop for senior medical nurses in the CHR (see attached brochure). These education sessions were provided (to sell-out crowds) on 5 different occasions at 3 acute-care sites.
- Mount Royal College, Nursing program lecture: K. Sissons
- University of Calgary, Nursing program lecture: K. Pauling-Shepard
- David Thompson Health Region: development and implementation of a 10-week orientation plan for newly hired Infection Control Practitioners
- David Thompson Health Region: Infection Control week was highlighted with hand hygiene demonstrations for the public (as well as TV and newspaper coverage). Information posters were created detailing all aspects of the theme "Protect yourself, protect others".

### *CHICA-SA Member Education Achievements*

- T. Lye: accepted as PhD candidate to Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary (January 2004)
- K. Bush: completed Masters program in Hospital Epidemiology in Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary (June 2004)
- T. Valadka: first-time CIC (April 2004)

- K. Pauling-Shepard, C. Ross, K. Sissons, S. Strople: CIC re-certification in 2004

## **CHICA-SA Initiatives**

### *CIDS/CHICA/CAMM 2004 Conjoint Conference (April 28-May 2, 2004)*

CHICA-SA played a major role in the 2004 Conjoint Conference as the host Chapter. The Conjoint Conference was a success, with approximately 500 in attendance. Nearly 90% of the CHICA-SA membership took an active role in organizing, volunteering, or presenting at the conference.

- The following CHICA-SA members participated in the organization of the conference:
  - ❖ CHICA-Canada Conference Chair: Karen Hope
  - ❖ CHICA-Canada Scientific Program Chair: Donna Ledgerwood
  - ❖ CHICA-Canada Scientific Program committee: Eileen Stamp, Georgina Normandin, Dr. Elizabeth Henderson, and Nancy Alfieri.
- Nearly half (45%) of the CHICA-SA membership participated as a presenter (see Appendix A: Publications).
- A novel workshop was offered at the 2004 Conjoint Conference to address the identified needs of the novice practitioner. The concept arose from the ongoing CHICA-Canada evaluation of the basic and continuing education needs of its members. The program was called “**Fundamentals of Infection Prevention and Control for the Novice Infection Control Practitioner**” (see attached brochure). This forum allowed novice IP&C practitioners to gather basic practice information from experienced IP&C practitioners. Topics covered included: getting connected; surveillance; standard practice and isolation; outbreak management; and transforming data into information. The event was an overwhelming success, with an attendance of nearly 170 participants. The workshop will now become a standard offering at CHICA-Canada conferences.
- CHICA-SA membership hosted a Silent Auction fundraiser which raised over \$4000 for future Chapter education initiatives.
- CHICA-SA member K. Bush received the “CHICA-Canada 2004 First Time Presenter” award for the submission *Mapping Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia in the Calgary Health Region*.

### *International Outreach*

CHICA-SA members recognize the importance of IP&C activities in the global community. Activities in 2004 included:

- Donation to IFIC for scholarship fund
- Malawi outreach: donations of medical supplies, toiletries, sewing kits and toys to the people of Malawi through a church-sponsored mission by CHICA-

SA member G. Myers. In addition, Gwyn was able to visit hospitals and provide consultation on IP&C issues.

### **Regional Initiatives**

The government of Alberta re-organized the boundaries of Health Regions across the province in 2003 (from 17 regions to 9). A huge challenge that all IP&C departments have dealt with in 2004 is to incorporate all the new staff and healthcare facilities into existing programs.

#### ***Calgary Health Region (CHR)***

- GI Outbreak Plan
  - Development of a coordinated outbreak plan to protect patients, healthcare workers, and the public at large from exposure to this infectious disease hazard (see attached document). The document clearly delineates responsibilities for nursing units, IP&C practitioners, physicians, Medical Officer of Health, OH&S, labs, and Environmental Services for an organized and efficient response to GI outbreaks in the CHR.
- Learning Innovation Team
  - A newly formed team interested in innovative ways of learning. There are four main groups in the LIT:
  - Social Marketing Group (SMG): building capacity for Social Marketing in the CHR, and laying the groundwork for a Social Marketing Institute - its first endeavor is a major SM initiative linked to hand hygiene in the CHR ICU's.
  - Innovative Communication Group (ICG): exploring storytelling, performance art and graphic art as novel communication methods to create capacity for rapid, dense, captivating educational presentations on nursing units.
  - Qualitative Inquiry Group: facilitating dialogism, understanding perceptions, and gaining insights to inform the activities of the SMG and the ICG.
  - Measurement/Evaluation Group: designing evaluation measures for behaviour change activities necessary for marketing to Administration and for research publication.
  - All the above arms conduct self-directed learning; diffuse knowledge locally to LIT, IPC program, others; and diffuse knowledge remotely through publication
- Hand Hygiene Initiatives
  - The IP&C department received a \$20,000 innovation grant from the CHR to fund a social marketing demonstration project to promote hand hygiene
- Housekeeping Initiative: enhanced cleaning team
  - A new initiative for rapid response cleaning funded by the CHR for all acute care sites. IP&C practitioners worked with senior housekeeping

management to create a prioritization algorithm to direct activities of this team (see attached).

- Regional Education Initiative
  - Development of a Regional Nursing Orientation program that addresses core competencies for health care workers in IP&C as developed through CHICA-Canada
- Multi-media Education Initiatives
  - “Survivor: Dress for the Occasion”: CHR IP&C produced video on appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which was distributed to all applicable departments in the CHR. An accompanying teaching guide was also created (see attached). The video and teaching guide were produced in response to needs identified in a June 2003 “isolation survey” conducted at the Peter Lougheed Centre (see attached abstract from 2004 Conjoint Conference).
  - Calgary Health Region IP&C website: an intranet site available to region staff. The site provides information on the role of IP&C and includes: on-line copies of regional IP&C manuals; information sheets; and regional policies and guidelines (see attached “front page”).
- Other Consulting IP&C
  - The boundaries of the CHR expanded to include many rural areas in 2003. One of the challenges faced by IP&C in 2004 was to expand services to include these rural areas. Activities included consultation, process investigation, and providing access to resources (eg. practitioners and manuals)
  - IP&C Process Investigations (Family Planning Clinics, Remand Centre)

### *David Thompson Health Region (DHR)*

The following are examples of the IP&C department initiatives in response to the huge challenge of expanding services to an enlarged health region:

- IP&C Department changes
  - Increased collaboration between hospital and community with the integration of the Communicable Disease Consultants and the hospital-based ICP's into a new department known as *Infectious Diseases*.
  - A newly structured Infection Control Committee with the development of a strategic plan for this committee, as well as differentiation in program vs. committee goals.
- Infection Prevention and Control manual
  - Re-development of an IP&C resource manual to meet the needs of all employees across this newly expanded region.
- Construction and Renovation Projects
  - Active participation by IP&C in the on-going construction and renovation projects in the David Thompson Health Region
- Regional Committees

- Nursing Equipment Cleaning Committee to standardize equipment cleaning protocols
- Waste Management Committee developed a regional waste management policy and provided education to Region staff
- Development of a clinical guideline for Community Acquired Pneumonia

### *Chinook Health Region (CHR)*

This dynamic IP&C department has just finished going through an accreditation process. In addition, the following initiatives occurred:

- Policy revisions
  - ARO, Isolation, Standard Practice, and Hand Hygiene.
- Policy creation
  - Outbreak, Notification, TB management, and Immunization in Continuing Care.
- Information sheets for the general public on communicable diseases ([http://www.chr.ab.ca/about\\_chr/diseases/index.htm](http://www.chr.ab.ca/about_chr/diseases/index.htm)).
- Strong advocacy through the Chinook Health Region for increased resources for IP&C to accommodate increasing demands on existing resources.

### *Alberta Health and Wellness (AH&W)*

This government body has representation on both CHICA-SA and CHICA-NA.

- The Provincial government is currently developing a smallpox emergency preparedness plan, in addition to the Alberta SARS response plan that was developed this year.

### **Standards, Policies and Guidelines**

- Alberta Cancer Board Infection Prevention and Control manual
  - This was a collaboration between IP&C consultants from both the Cross Cancer Centre (Edmonton) and the Tom Baker Cancer Centre (Calgary). The manual provides a standardized reference for ACB employees for patient care issues involving infection prevention and control.
- General Design Guidelines/Standards for CHR Capital Projects
  - IP&C developed this document to provide IP&C design standards, recommendations and guidelines from Health Canada, CSA, and the CDC for use in future planning for renovation and new capital building projects in the health region (see attached document).
- SRI Response Planning AND Provincial Pandemic Disaster Planning
  - All IP&C departments in the province developed protocols and algorithms in response to Alberta Health and Wellness directives (see attached for examples).

## **Committee Participation**

CHICA-SA members participated in many committees at the national, provincial, and regional levels. CHICA-SA members also promote the goals and objectives of CHICA-Canada through member participation on various CHICA-Canada committees.

- CHICA-SA executive: J. Stoesz (President); B. Milligan (Treasurer); K. Rasmussen (Secretary); T. Valadka (Seminar Coordinator; President Elect); K. Hope (Past President)
- CHICA-Canada participants:
  - CHICA-Canada President Elect: K. Hope
  - CHICA-Canada Director, Education: Dr. E.A. Henderson
  - CHICA-Canada Archivist: M. LeBlanc
  - Distant Members: G. Myers (Education); K. Hope (Government Affairs); M. Turmel (Membership); B. Milligan (Standards/Guidelines); D. Lam-Li (Program Projects); R. Moryski (LTC Interest); J. Stoesz (Chapter President)
- Canadian dialysis guidelines: D. Lam-Li (chair of committee)
- National Oncology Committee: S. Strople, K. Pauling-Shepard (joint chairs)
- CHICA-SA is represented by Dr. E.A. Henderson through her membership on many national and international committees:
  - Canadian Hospital Epidemiology Committee (CHEC)
  - Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Project (CNISP)
  - Canadian Coordinating Committee for Antimicrobial Resistance (CCCAR)
  - Network for Infection Control Practitioners (NICE)
  - Resources for Infection Control in Hospital (RICH)
  - Society for Healthcare Epidemiologists of America (SHEA) (as well as Dr. T. Louie)
- Provincial steering committee on antimicrobial resistance: M. LeBlanc
- Calgary Health Region and Chinook Health Region ICU practitioners participate in the Canadian ICU Collaborative for the prevention of Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (see attached information).
- CHR IP&C practitioners participated in a CHEC prevalence study of *C.difficile* (beginning in November, 2003).
- Regional Committees include product standardization; housekeeping task forces; and infection control policies