



## April 2011

### ICNC Board News:

- Kudos to the Hartford Chapter, in particular to Irene Hendrikson, for a great spring seminar! Barry Inman, an epidemiologist with an extensive background in infection prevention covered a lot of pertinent information.
- Welcome to new members! We had new members sign up when they registered for the seminar.
- If you have something that you would like posted on the ICNC web site, please send to Jasper at [jaspertolarba@infectioncontrolct.org](mailto:jaspertolarba@infectioncontrolct.org). Thank you again, Jasper, for the wonderful web site!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN INFECTION PREVENTION



April 24<sup>th</sup> is World Meningitis Day . To learn more about meningitis go to <http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/about/index.html>

**Active surveillance and precautions** used to decrease the spread of MRSA and VRE in ICUs was found not to be as effective as previously thought. It was noted that hand hygiene and use of PPE used was less than required.  
<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1000373>



**NEW DRUG FOR TREATING C-DIFF!** Fidaxomicin , a *bacteriocidal* drug, has been noted to have some advantages over Vancomycin with respect to the development of resistant organisms over time and may potentially change the relapse rate. Fidaxomicin kills C-Diff rather than inhibit as with Vancomycin. It will be a twice a day regimen for 10 days.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa0910812>

**7 APPROACHES TO PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF C-DIFFICILE**  
PRESENTED BY DR. DONSKEY AT THE RECENT ANNUAL SHEA SCIENTIFIC MEETING

1. Because spores can be shed before, during and after CDI, expedite identification and isolation of CDI patients, and use pre-emptive isolation while test results are pending.
2. Prolong the duration of contact precautions after CDI treatment is completed; the cost consideration could be an issue for some hospitals.
3. Improve patient bathing to reduce the burden of spores on the skin; however, there is some indication that bathing may not be a silver bullet.
4. Daily disinfection of high-touch surfaces during CDI treatment is as important as terminal cleaning.
5. Use more sensitive diagnostic tests for CDI.
6. Do not screen for and isolate asymptomatic carriers, as more data is needed here; assess for environmental and skin contamination.
7. Explore interventions that address airborne dispersal of spores, otherwise known as the "fecal cloud." This aspect of CDI transmission is currently under debate and more studies are needed. See Donskey's paper, "Preventing Transmission of Clostridium difficile: Is the Answer Blowing in the Wind?" published in [Clinical Infectious Diseases](#), Vol. 50, No. 11, 2010.

<http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/news/2011/04/expert-reviews-strategies-for-c-diff-transmission-prevention.aspx>



**FDA CLEAR SINGLE-USE ANTIBACTERIAL N-95**

SpectraShield 9500 surgical respirator, a face mask the outside of which has been shown to kill three types of bacteria (*Streptococcus pyogenes*, Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and *Haemophilus influenzae*) was cleared by the FDA recently. The device is also a certified N95 respirator, blocking at least 95% of dust particles



**NEW CT SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/New\\_Sch\\_Regs\\_provider\\_update\\_ltr\\_3\\_9\\_11\\_combined.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/New_Sch_Regs_provider_update_ltr_3_9_11_combined.pdf)

**UPCOMING FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:**

**“CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE INFECTION: AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PREVENTION** by Ruth Carrico, PhD,RN,CIC , hosted by Pharmacy OneSource on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 1pm. To register, visit <http://www.senti7.com/infection/>

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:



### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS PROGRAM

#### HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PLANNING CONFERENCE

#### WHEN AND WHERE:

**TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2011**  
**Wesleyan University**  
**Middletown, Connecticut**  
**8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

#### TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

**Setting Program &**  
**Resources Priorities for the Connecticut**  
**State HAI Plan**

The November 19, 2010 Stakeholder Engagement Conference was an educational conference was an opportunity to share information that will help us all plan and take action to prevent HAIs. The Health Improvement Plan (HIP) Planning Conference will be an opportunity to share your ideas and help direct future activities and resource allocations for our state's effort to combat HAI's.

The State of Connecticut will address the range of sectors and settings in the healthcare system (e.g. dialysis centers, long term care, community health centers, hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, homecare and hospice).

For more information about the conference please visit our website [www.ct.gov/dph/hai](http://www.ct.gov/dph/hai) or call 860-509-7995 to speak to program staff.



Healthcare-Associated Infections Program



Connecticut Department of Public Health

## RESOURCES:

**APIC GUIDE TO MRSA ELIMINATION IN HOSPITALS: download**  
@ [http://www.apic.org/downloads/MRSA\\_elimination\\_guide\\_27030.pdf](http://www.apic.org/downloads/MRSA_elimination_guide_27030.pdf)



### **HOW TO DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICATIONS & USED**

**SYRINGES AT HOME :** protect the environment and each other by knowing how to discard of medications and syringes at home. Include this information with discharge instructions! Local health gets a lot of calls on this issue. As Infection Preventionists we need to educate our staff and residents/patients on what to do with old medications and syringes.

<http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/p2/individual/consumerpharmdisposalfactsheet.pdf>  
[http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/p2/consumer\\_pharms/householdneedlesyringedisposal.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/p2/consumer_pharms/householdneedlesyringedisposal.pdf)

### **CT DPH Epidemiologist Newsletter:**

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=>

**PREVENT INFECTION.ORG:** a great consumer web site from APIC

<http://www.preventinfection.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home4>

**NEXT INFECTION CONTROL CLASS**  
**SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> IN PLANTSVILLE**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KAREN TAYLOR AT**  
**Karentayloricn.sbcglobal.net**