

PICNet Committees and Groups

STEERING COMMITTEES

Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Steering Committee (PIPSC)

Co-Chairs: Tara Donovan (Network Director, PICNet) & Dr. Titus Wong (Provincial Medical Director, PICNet)

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, health authorities and other partners, PICNet chairs this steering committee, whose purpose is to deliver integrated, consistent, effective, provincial activities to reduce healthcare-associated infections by improving infection prevention and control (IPC) practices across the continuum of care in British Columbia. With a focus on improvement and innovation, objectives of the committee include: provide subject matter expertise, technical advice and recommendations to guide the planning, development, coordination, implementation, monitoring and assessment of provincial IPC strategic goals, priorities and associated work plan; create a forum to actively engage with partners to promote consistent IPC practices provincially; and provide expert advice to PHSA executive leadership on emerging IPC issues, as required.

WORKING GROUPS

Surveillance Working Group (SWG)

Chair: Katherine Sunderland (Senior Epidemiologist, PICNet)

In collaboration with the health authorities, PICNet chairs this working group whose purpose is to provide recommendations to PICNet's leadership to develop, implement, and ensure the quality of provincial infection prevention and control surveillance programs. Objectives of the working group include: develop, review and/or update surveillance protocols to optimize consistency, integrity and efficacy in data collection and integration; identify opportunities to develop strategies to standardize data collection and to overcome data limitations and deficiencies; and to identify effective methods to analyze, report and visualize surveillance data.

Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG)

Chair: Tara Donovan (Network Director, PICNet)

In collaboration with the health authorities and the Ministry of Health, PICNet chairs this working group whose purpose is to develop, maintain and/or update provincial hand hygiene documents and resources that support health authority hand hygiene programs across the continuum of client-centered care in British Columbia. With the goal of decreasing healthcare associated infections and preventing communicable disease transmission, the working group develops evidence-based provincial hand hygiene best practices, clinical resources and other tools, and advocates for their implementation. Objectives of the working group include: Provide subject matter expertise, technical advice and recommendations to guide provincial hand hygiene program enhancements related to best practices, auditing and reporting methods; collaborate to identify financial/human resource and other requirements to implement best practices and health authority hand hygiene programs including special clinical and educational improvement efforts; support health authorities in evaluating new and emerging technologies related to hand hygiene; and provide a venue for members to share hand hygiene best practices and lessons learned.

Provincial Infection Prevention and Control High-Threat Pathogens Sub-Working Group (IPC HTP SWG)

Chair: Tara Donovan (Network Director, PICNet)

With membership from the Ministry of Health, health authorities and PICNet, the purpose of the Infection Prevention and Control High Threat Pathogens Sub-Working Group (IPC HTP SWG) is to: Identify infection prevention and control (IPC)-related practice requirements, materials and process solutions that are critical to successfully preparing for, responding to, and obtaining closure (lessons learned) following a high-threat pathogen (HTP) event(s); provide recommendations and materials for approval by the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer; and support implementation of IPC best practices for HTPs through provision of education modules or other methods of delivery (e.g., videos, knowledge translation tools). The scope for this work is acute health care settings, urgent and primary care centers and primary health care settings including walk-in clinics. Pathogens within scope include Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (including Ebola, Lassa, Marburg and Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever), and unknown/newly emerging pathogens with known or potential human-to-human transmission.

EXPERT COMMITTEES

Provincial Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) Expert Working Group

Chair: Dr. Sean Ling (Medical Lead, PICNet)

The Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) Expert Working Group is a multidisciplinary, geographically diverse group with membership from PICNet, the Ministry of health, clinical staff and academic experts with subject matter expertise in aerosol transmission. Reporting to PICNet, the purpose of the AGMP Expert Committee is to determine if a specific medical procedure is an AGMP based on reviews of current information, provide evidence-based recommendations on transmission risks of communicable respiratory pathogens in health-care settings and curate the existing provincial AGMP list as needed. Requests for review may be received from health authorities, provincial groups and/or other committees. Decision summaries are shared on the [PICNet Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures](#) webpage. The AGMP Expert Committee makes a concerted effort to ensure that materials developed are clear and concise, easy to read, and support practitioners and health care workers to make informed decisions. The AGMP Expert Committee **does not** provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance specific to procedures reviewed which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and/or Infection Prevention and Control and Workplace Health and Safety teams within each health authority.

Provincial AGMP Expert Sub-Working Group

Chair: Dr. Lynne Li (Pathologist, PHSA)

We are an extension of the larger AGMP Expert Committee, and are a multi-disciplinary team comprised of aerosol scientists, occupational health researchers, and infection prevention and control physicians and practitioners who are particularly interested in how best to reduce infectious aerosols in healthcare settings. Our goal is to prevent healthcare-associated infections through review and study of new methods of reducing infectious aerosols. Connect and collaborate with us if you want to learn more about our work and group – picnet@phsa.ca.

TASK GROUPS

Provincial Reprocessing Guidelines Task Group

Co-chairs: Noorsallah Esmail (Senior Practice Leader, PICNet) & Bonnie Mackenzie (Regional Coordinator, Medical Device Reprocessing, Northern Health Authority)

Jointly chaired by PICNet and Northern Health, the Provincial Reprocessing Guidelines Task Group is a time-limited working group of medical device reprocessing and infection prevention and control subject matter experts with the purpose to inform the revision of the provincial infection prevention and control best practice guidelines for medical device reprocessing, that are evidence informed and contextually adaptable. The overarching goal of the task group is to strengthen infection prevention and control best practices for the reprocessing of medical devices to prevent health care-associated infections.

Hand Hygiene Task Group

Chair: Diandra Mark (Knowledge Translation Leader, PICNet)

As an extension to the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG), this task group comprises of frontline infection prevention and control professionals and hand hygiene experts who are passionate about promoting and enhancing hand hygiene best practices across the province via education tools. We are responsible for improving engagement and learning content uptake by revising the Provincial Hand Hygiene Learning Module and creating knowledge translation tools to help facilitate the implementation of the updated best practices hand hygiene guidance.

INTEREST GROUPS

IPAC Planetary Health Interest Group

Co-chairs: Dr. Titus Wong (Provincial Medical Director, PICNet) & Dr. Victor Leung (Physician Lead, IPAC, PHC)

The IPAC Planetary Health Interest Group is a collaborative forum that brings together members from PICNet, clinical staff, and academic experts to share ideas and implement planetary health practices. The group aims to foster a community focused on advocating for sustainable practices, promoting inter-HA collaboration, and integrating environmental health into infection prevention and control. It also works to spread successful projects, monitor impact, and explore opportunities for external funding and grants. The IPAC Planetary Health Interest Group is currently welcoming new members. If you are interested in participating and sharing insights, please email picnet@phsa.ca.