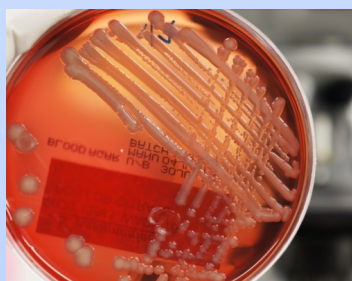


PICNet

PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

PICNet Annual Report April 2017–March 2018



Prepared by:
Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet)
May 2018

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Executive Summary

The Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) was formed in 2005 as a multi-disciplinary network to improve coordination of urgent/emergent infection control issues at a provincial level, and to establish a provincial surveillance system for healthcare-associated infections (HAI). It was also tasked with providing education to the infection prevention and control community of practice, and creating practice guidelines that would standardize practices and enhance patient and staff safety.

PICNet has built a reputation as the provincial source for infection control guidance and for providing accountability, transparency, and a forum for provincial discussion of infection control issues. PICNet's strength is based on its ability to bring together the right people to participate in projects and initiatives proposed by its community of practice (CoP) and by the Ministry of Health (MoH). Using the best available evidence, the CoP (which has representation from all the health authorities, the Ministry of Health, and related organizations) has developed a robust guideline development process, a quality HAI surveillance program, and a suite of educational resources.

This report presents a summary of the projects and initiatives that PICNet worked on during the fiscal year 2017/18.

Projects and Initiatives

PICNet is partnering with the Ministry of Health to develop a Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Strategic Framework that will further define the roles and responsibilities, effective planning, and coordination needed to support provincial efforts to reduce the prevalence and impact of HAIs in BC. Work began on this last fiscal year, with the drafting of a Framework document; PICNet will be hosting focus group meetings in May 2018 to further refine the goals and priority actions proposed in the document.

PICNet worked closely with the health authorities to develop recommendations for the cleaning and disinfection of heater/cooler units used in cardiac surgery, after patients (in Alberta and the USA) developed *Mycoplasma chimaera* infections related to the use of these machines.

Guidelines and Toolkits

Work continued on the provincial protocol for Fecal Microbiota Therapy (FMT) for recurrent *Clostridium difficile* illness (CDI); a document with recommendations is in final revisions and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health in May 2018.

Revisions to the 2011 Guidelines for Respiratory Illness Outbreak Management are nearing completion, and will be presented to the Provincial Disease Control Policy Committee for their review in September 2018.

Surveillance

PICNet and its Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC) continue to participate in several initiatives: the health authorities' proposal to examine multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) screening compliance in BC acute care facilities; developing guidance for target-setting; an evaluation of electronic hand hygiene auditing; and a process (in collaboration with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Public Health Laboratory) for combining whole genome sequencing and epidemiological data to provide genomic surveillance of HAI outbreaks in BC.

The Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), CDI (*Clostridium difficile* infection), Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO), and Hand Cleaning Compliance (HCC) programs continue.

Communications

Communications resources continue to be offered to healthcare professionals, such as a webinar hosted by Webber Training, and additional infection control posters, particularly for residential care.

Education

PICNet hosted its eleventh annual educational conference in March 2018, and brought its "Let's Go Viral!" educational workshop to several residential care facilities during National Infection Control Week. Work also continued on the All Hazards Training – a framework developed by the Ministry of Health, health authorities, BC Emergency Health Services and Health Emergency Management BC to address health care providers' overall education requirements for infection prevention and control. Two new online education modules, *Infection Control for Rare and Emerging Pathogens*, have been created.

Partnerships

PICNet continues to play a key role in the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG), with representation in the main PHHWG committee and in one of its sub-groups, the BCHH CoG (BC Hand Hygiene Communications Group). PICNet staff also continue to participate in other provincial and national committees.

PICNet Staff Changes

Bruce Gamage will be retiring in June 2018. Bruce began his nursing career on the Leukemia/BMT unit at Vancouver General Hospital. In 1996, he changed direction to focus on Infection Prevention and Control, working as an ICP at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) before moving to the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) in 2000. In 2005, he helped create PICNet, and is currently Network Director. He is also a past president of Infection Prevention and Control Canada. Bruce's skillful guidance and ability to bring together diverse groups in a spirit of collaboration have helped PICNet become a success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bruce for his years of work and commitment to improving infection control practices and resources in British Columbia.

PICNet and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) were very proactive in filling the Network Director position, and are pleased to announce that Tara Donovan has accepted the position, commencing in June 2018. Tara comes to PICNet from Fraser Health, where she has been working since 2010 as the regional IPC Epidemiologist, and more recently as the Managing Consultant for IPC. She has gained strong leadership and management experience in her time at Fraser Health, and also as Director of Standards and Guidelines on the Board of IPAC Canada. Tara is certified in Infection Control and holds a Master's of Science in Community Health and Epidemiology. Her strong skillsets in both surveillance and leadership will be very valuable assets that she brings into her new role with PICNet.

Projects and Initiatives

Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Framework

In 2016, the Ministry of Health began working with PICNet on a provincial framework development process, to clarify roles and responsibilities for infection control within and across the province, and to address emerging issues at a provincial level. In October 2017, a wide audience of stakeholders within the infection prevention and control community of practice were consulted for input on this process. A literature review and multi-jurisdictional scan were also conducted. A draft framework document was created, and in May 2018, PICNet hosted two days of focus group meetings with a wide variety of stakeholders to further refine the goals and proposed priority actions. Participants also worked on developing an implementation plan and evaluation criteria for each goal.

All Hazards Training

In 2016, the Ministry of Health issued a Health Care Worker All Hazard Personal Protection Training Framework. The framework contains five training components. The first three components cover basic training on routine practices, point of care risk assessment, selection and use of personal protective equipment and application of additional precautions.

These elements of the training framework were addressed by replacing PICNet's Provincial Infection Control and Hand Hygiene online education module with two new modules in 2017; in addition, two new online modules for Infection Control for Rare and Emerging Pathogens have been completed and made available on the PHSA LearningHub. These are not intended to be "stand alone" education, but the first step in a series of online and hands-on simulation practices to be completed by health authorities at specific facilities.

Heater Cooler Units

In August 2017, PICNet worked closely with the health authorities to develop recommendations for the cleaning and disinfection of certain heater/cooler units that are used to either heat or cool patient's blood while they are undergoing cardiac surgery. In several jurisdictions around the world, including Alberta, patients have developed infections with non-tuberculosis mycobacterium related to these machines. Health Canada placed a recall on the machines; however, sending the machines back to the manufacturer would have resulted in months of delays on heart surgeries. PICNet, BCCDC, BC Cardiac Services, and the health authorities worked collaboratively to address this issue via proper cleaning and disinfection rather than by returning the machines. To date, there have been no infections related to these machines detected in patients in BC.

Practice Guidelines

Guidelines are developed by expert working groups with representation from all health authorities, using a rigorous development process. All PICNet guidelines undergo a review cycle every four to five years to ensure that they reflect the most up-to-date, evidence-based recommendations. While PICNet guidelines are developed for use in BC, they are also recognized and used nationally and internationally.

Fecal Microbiota Therapy (FMT) Protocol

In 2015, work began on provincial guidelines for fecal microbiota therapy (known commonly as stool transplant). A provincial FMT working group was formed, and a draft guidance protocol document was submitted to the MoH. Ongoing work has been done in 2017/18 regarding the possible creation of a donor registry, standardized laboratory testing of donors and physician billing for the procedures. A final document with recommendations for moving forward is in final revisions and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

Respiratory Infection Guidelines Revision

Revisions to the 2011 Guidelines for Respiratory Illness Outbreak Management are nearing completion advice is currently being sought from AMMI/CACMID regarding the use of antivirals for prophylaxis in outbreak settings when vaccine efficacy is low. Following this, the guidelines will be presented to the Provincial Disease Control Policy Committee for their review in the fall of 2018.

Surveillance

PICNet's surveillance programs continue evolving to reflect advances and challenges in infection prevention and control practices. In 2017/18, PICNet and its Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC) moved forward with several new initiatives.

Whole Genome Sequencing

Outbreaks caused by organisms such as carbapenem producing organisms (CPO) are difficult to investigate with traditional methods. Most resistant bacteria of infection control interest harbour their resistant genes on the bacteria's chromosomes. CPOs, however, carry their genes on plasmids, making it very different to detect clusters using conventional methods. Newer technology such as whole genome sequencing (WGS) reveals the complete DNA make-up of an organism, including plasmid genes, to differentiate between closely related organisms or unrelated organisms with related plasmids, allowing outbreaks to be detected with fewer clinical cases. This provides the opportunity to stop outbreaks sooner and avoid additional transmissions. PICNet is collaborating with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Public Health Laboratory (BCCDC PHL) on a process for combining WGS and epidemiological data in order to investigate HAI outbreaks in BC. This project is funded by a Genome BC Grant. The PHL's database of sequenced CPO genomes has been linked with the provincial CPO surveillance database, and methods of cluster investigation based on genomic data are being validated. PICNet is working closely with the BCCDC PHL to support the genomics cluster review with infection control programs of the involved health authority.

MDRO Screening

PICNet has participated in the health authorities' proposal to examine multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) screening compliance in BC acute care facilities. The project was endorsed by PICNet's SOAC, with the pilot study under way, with a goal to implement the project within the next year.

Target Setting

As requested by the health authorities, PICNet, working with the SSC, developed a draft guidance document for setting surveillance targets. The document, which has been reviewed by the SSC and shared with the health authorities, will be used to set a provincial target for *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI).

Evaluation of Electronic Hand Hygiene Auditing

In the fall of 2017, the Healthcare Technologies Assessment Branch (HTAC) of the Ministry of Health evaluated various electronic hand hygiene auditing systems supported by data and advice provided by Bruce Gamage and Guanghong Han.

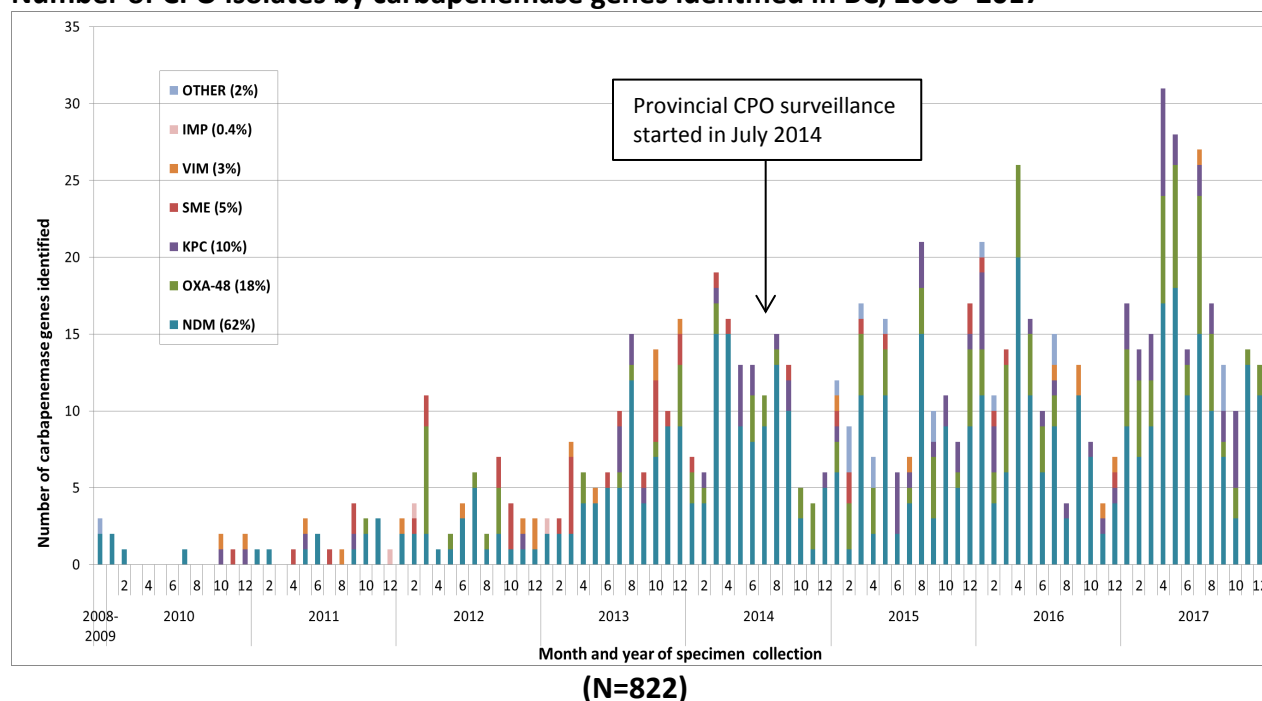
CPO Surveillance

Carbapenem producing organism (CPO) refers to certain strains of bacteria that are resistant to many of the antibiotics commonly used to treat infections, including those antibiotics known as carbapenems. The first CPO case in BC was identified in 2008 from a traveller returning from an endemic country where the patient had exposure to medical procedures. Since then, CPOs have been identified among patients in both community settings and healthcare settings, but remain uncommon in the majority of hospitals in the province.

CPO was made a reportable condition in BC in December 2016, under the Public Health Act. Under the revised provincial CPO surveillance protocol, endorsed by the Provincial Communicable Diseases Policy Advisory Committee, all new cases of CPO identified from BC acute care and community settings are reported to PICNet. PICNet, the BCCDC PHL, and the provincial Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee have established a process to coordinate with Public Health to identify and obtain surveillance information from community identified cases. Cases identified in acute care facilities will be followed up according to the current PICNet protocol, and reporting will continue to be directed to PICNet. The updated protocol can be found at www.picnet.ca/surveillance/cpo/.

CPO surveillance reports continue to be released quarterly; they can also be found at www.picnet.ca/surveillance/cpo/.

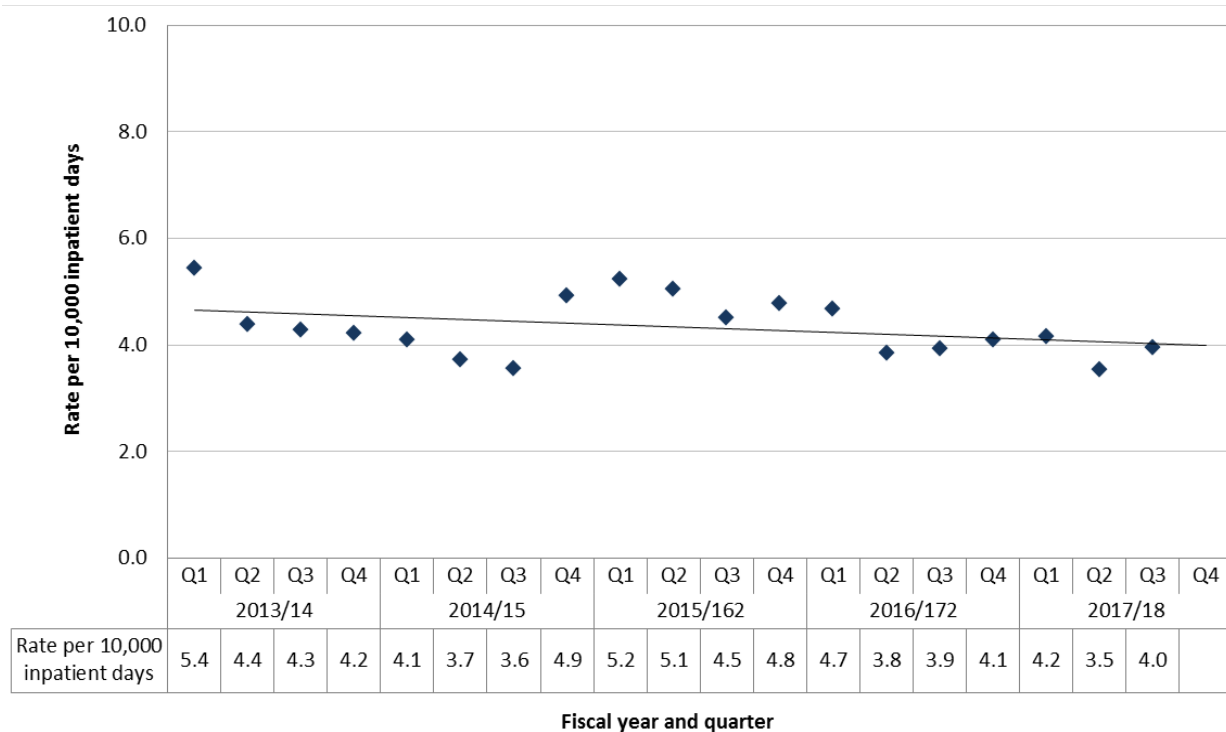
Number of CPO isolates by carbapenemase genes identified in BC, 2008- 2017



CDI Surveillance

In 2017/18, provincial quarterly CDI rates decreased significantly compared to 2016/17. The latest quarterly update can be accessed via www.picnet.ca/surveillance/cdi/. The annual surveillance report for CDI will be released in September 2018.

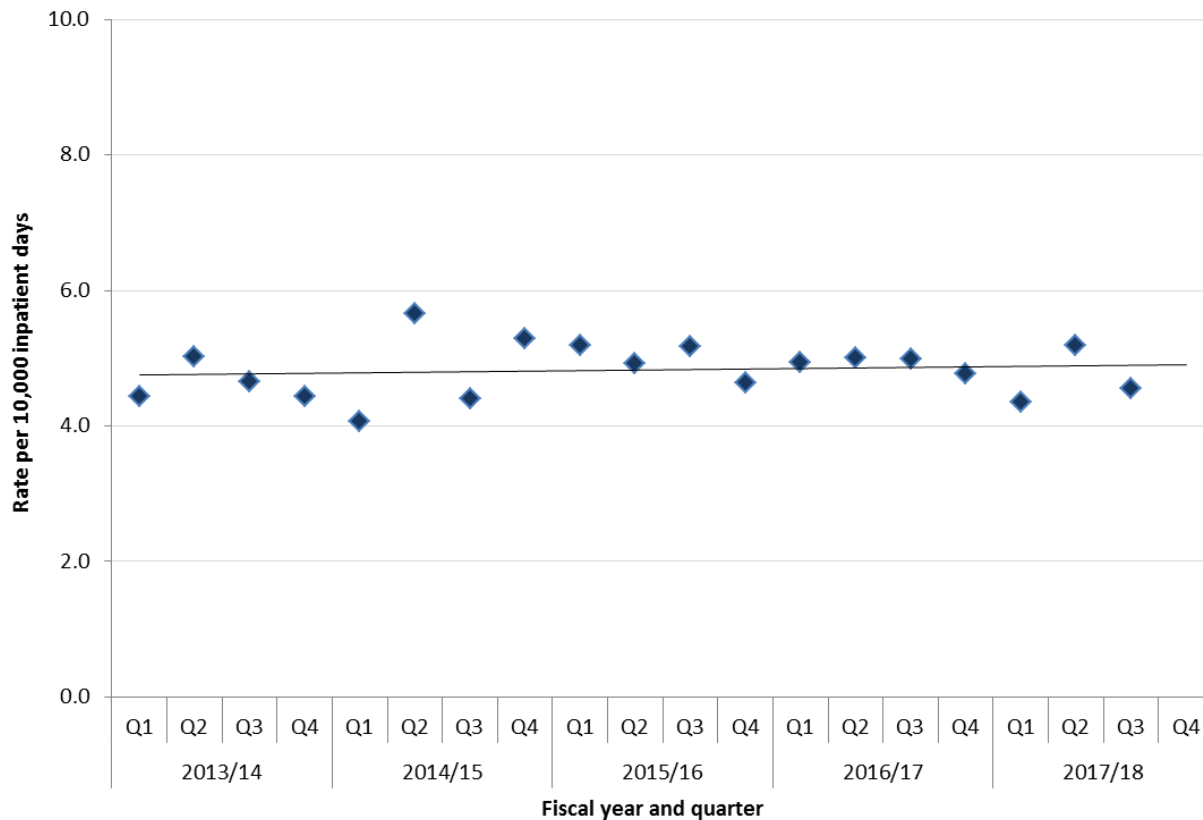
Provincial rate and number of new cases of CDI associated with the reporting facility, by fiscal year and quarter, 2012/13- 2017/18, British Columbia



MRSA Surveillance

The rate of MRSA has remained relatively stable in the past two years. The graph below 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 www.picnet.ca/surveillance/mrsa/.) The annual surveillance report for MRSA will be released in September 2018.

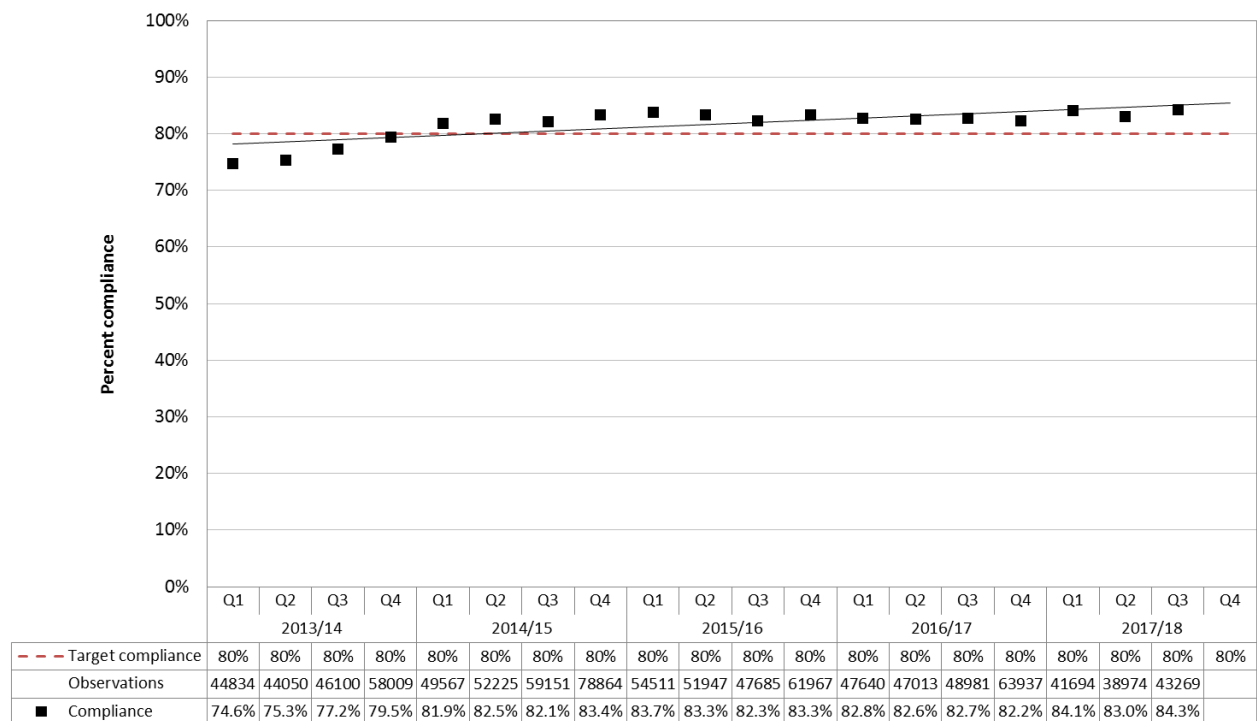
Provincial rate and number of new cases of MRSA associated with the reporting facility, 2012/13 - 2017/18, British Columbia



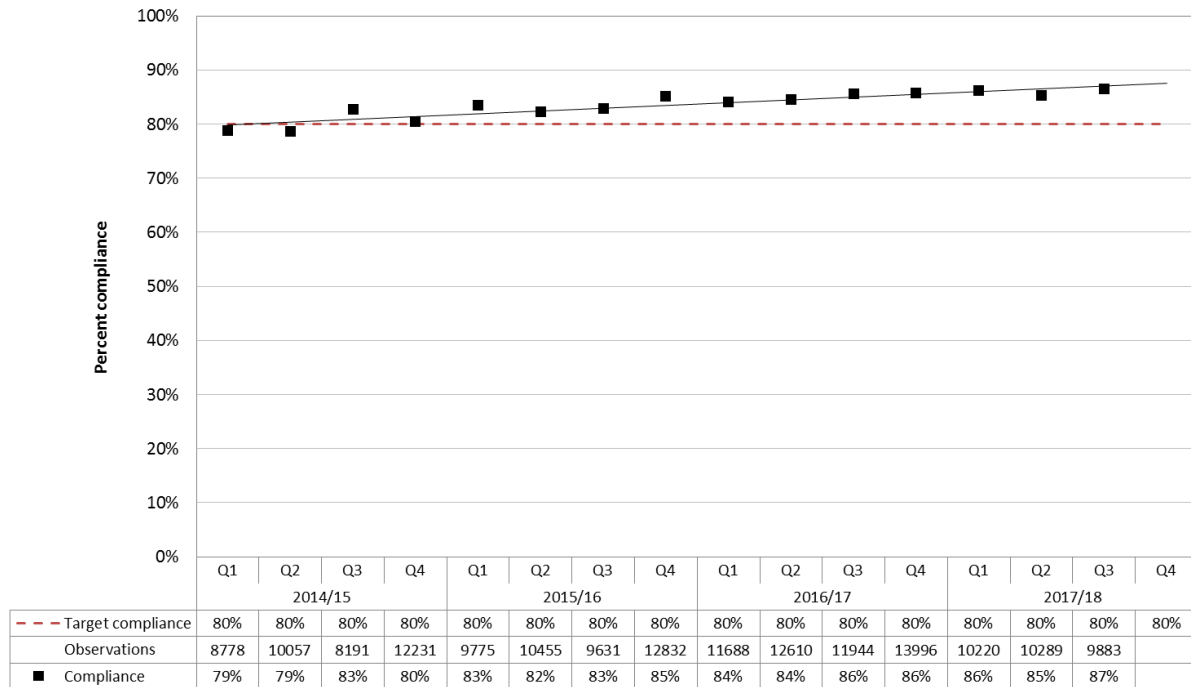
Hand Hygiene Compliance

Provincial reporting of hand cleaning compliance (HCC) among healthcare providers in acute care facilities began in 2011, with residential care (health authority owned and operated) added to the program in 2016. The graphs below show the overall provincial hand cleaning compliance in acute care facilities and residential care facilities by quarter and year. Both continued to exceed the target performance of 80% in 2017/18. The full reports can be downloaded from www.picnet.ca/surveillance/hand-hygiene/.

Overall provincial hand cleaning compliance in acute care facilities by quarter and year, 2012/13 – 2017/18



Overall provincial hand cleaning compliance in residential care facilities by quarter and year, 2014/15 – 2017/18



Communications

PICNet Website

Further improvements were made to the PICNet website, including making it more mobile-friendly. The table below shows the most visited pages on the website. PICNet’s educational resources – especially posters and activities – are still extremely popular, followed by guidelines, events, and surveillance.

PICNet website’s top 10 pages, by number of page views, for the fiscal year 2017/18

	Page	Page views	Percentage of total (of all pages)
1	Homepage	7,088	10.39%
2	/resources/posters/infection-control-posters/	5,431	7.96%
3	/resources/activities/	3,502	5.13%
4	/resources/games/	2,848	4.18%
5	/resources/posters/	2,438	3.57%
6	/resources/letsgoviral/	2,212	3.24%
7	/resources/	2,147	3.15%
8	/guidelines/	1,601	2.35%
9	/conferences-events/picnet-conference-2018/	1,488	2.18%
10	/surveillance/cpo/about-cpo/	1,409	2.07%

Infection Control Week

PICNet updated its Planning and Communications Toolkit, which contains activity guides, planning tools and schedules, and communications/promotional information. As part of this, downloadable games, posters, and web banners were provided to the CoP. In addition, numerous tweets (with graphics and/or links) were sent out via the PHSA Twitter account.

In October 2017, PICNet visited two residential care facilities with its “Let’s Go Viral!” infection control workshop.



Provincial Hand Hygiene Campaigns

The BC Hand Hygiene Communications Group (BCHH CoG) is comprised of communications professionals from each of the health authorities.



Residential care posters

In 2017/18, the group decided to provide resources for residential care, as previous campaigns had focused more on acute care. Helen Evans, PICNet's Communications Officer, conducted a survey of residential care facilities in BC. From the results, the group decided on projects to carry out in 2018. The first of these was a series of infection control posters that were requested via the survey.



Sanitizer or soap? PDF



Clean Hands Before Eating (reminder to staff to help residents) PDF



Clean your hands before eating (reminder to residents) PDF



Dispose of gloves and then clean hands PDF



How to clean hands with sanitizer PDF



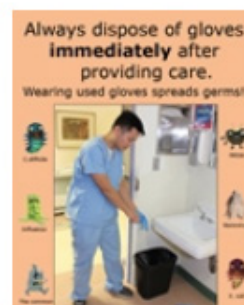
What have you touched? (molecules) PDF



What have you touched? (cartoon germs) PDF



Dispose of gloves – portrait PDF



Dispose of gloves (with cartoon germs) PDF



Don't visit if sick Word



Outbreak in progress Word



Please clean your hands Word



Please clean your hands Word

Presentation at IPAC-Canada Conference

In 2016/17, the group had run a series of two-month campaigns focusing on different aspects of hand hygiene. The group decided they would like to share their work nationally, so Helen Evans presented this at the IPAC-Canada 2018 educational conference. The materials were made available for download so that anyone across Canada could use these to run their own campaigns.

ICP Education in Communications and Social Media

Helen Evans, PICNet's Communications Officer, continued to offer communications education to infection control professionals (ICPs) by presenting a national webinar (through Webber Training) on *Social Media: Useful or Useless in Infection Control?* This webinar had a worldwide audience.

Education

PICNet provides education resources and opportunities, such as the PICNet conference, 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 from across the continuum of care. PICNet also provides in-services to healthcare provider groups and educational institutes upon request.

All Hazards Education Modules

At the request of the Ministry of Health, PICNet developed online education modules for Infection Control Practices for Direct Clinical Care providers, and a separate module for those who work in health care facilities but do not provide direct clinical patient care. Work began on these in 2016, and in 2017 they were posted on the PHSA LearningHub, and have also been included in the Student Practice Education Core Orientation (SPECO) training package that all students taking practicums in health care disciplines in BC hospitals are required to complete.



Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Health Care Personnel Not Involved in Direct Clinical Care

This course teaches the basic principles of infection control within the healthcare system, including hand hygiene, sharps management, blood and body fluid exposure and clean-up, proper use of personal protective equipment, and additional precautions.

eLearning Course 1 hour Clinical



FNHA	FHA	IHA	VIHA	NHA
Other	PHC	PHSA	Public	VCH

Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Direct/Professional Clinical Care Providers

eLearning Course 1 hour Clinical



FNHA	FHA	IHA	VIHA	NHA
Other	PHC	PHSA	Public	VCH

In 2017, work commenced on two new modules for Infection Control Practices for Rare or Emerging Pathogens: one for Level 1 & 2 facilities, and one for Level 3 facilities. These were completed in 2018, and have been made available on the PHSA LearningHub.



Infection Control Precautions for Rare or Emerging Pathogens

eLearning Course

Infection Control Precautions for Rare or Emerging Pathogens (PAPR)

eLearning Course

PICNet Educational Conference

The 2018 PICNet Educational Conference took place in the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel. This two-day conference had 130 delegates, 11 speakers, and 28 exhibitors. Presentation topics included:

- Update on PICNet
- Taking the snag out of your Catch-22: Ethical decision making
- Waste woes: Do's and don'ts
- For those who seek to study: How ICPs can be involved with research
- Genome sequencing meets shoe-leather epidemiology: Use of whole-genome sequencing data to investigate a cluster of NDM-positive *Citrobacter freundii* in British Columbia
- The art of execution: Examining the noose of implementation science
- The disinfectant duke-out
- Critical device failure: Now what?
- Vaccinations: What's new and/or improved?
- It's all in your hands: Preventing hand dermatitis
- Courageously you! The leadership power of small acts

This year's conference again featured short presentations from Community of Practice members:

- Microbial dissemination from a flushing toilet in a patient bathroom
- Introduction of a gastrointestinal pathogen multiplex panel and selective culture (GPMP&SC) testing algorithm to identify the causative agents of gastroenteritis
- Planning education on the fly: Implementing a series of short n snappy IPAC in-services in a 230-bed residential care facility
- Introduction to the Critical Appraisal Toolkit

"Excellent opportunity to gather with IPAC community and network, catch-up and share experiences at work over the past year."

"Very informative, and gives an opportunity to meet people from different health authorities and share experiences."

"Thank you for organizing this event, I always gain so much knowledge attending it."

"As always I enjoyed myself. PICNET obviously plans well to ensure attendees are well taken care of."

"A great conference, so many little tips to bring back to the workplace and put into practice."

In-Services and Presentations

PICNet staff gave several in-services and conference presentations during 2017/18:

Surrey Memorial Hospital IPAC Education Day October 19, 2017 - <i>PICNet Provincial Surveillance Program: Applying HAI surveillance findings to practice</i>	Bruce Gamage, Network Director
Abbotsford Regional Hospital IPAC Education Day November 21, 2017 - <i>PICNet Update: Surveillance, Education & Practice</i>	
School of Population and Public Health January 22, 2018 - <i>A Practical Introduction to Infection Control</i>	
College of New Caledonia Nursing Class – January 6, 2018 - <i>Infection Control Practices and Microorganisms of Concern in the Healthcare Setting</i>	Joanne Archer, Education and Practice Coordinator
College of New Caledonia Health Science Class – March 17, 2018 – <i>Immunity and Infections</i>	
First Nations Health Authority Dental Hygiene Group – October 19, 2017 – <i>Infection Control Practices for the Dental Hygiene Setting</i>	
IPAC Canada National Education Conference June 19, 2017 - <i>The Impact Of Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE) Policy And Practice Change In British Columbia</i>	Guanghong Han, Surveillance Epidemiologist
Webber Training teleclass, August 2017 - <i>Social Media: Useful or Useless in Infection Control?</i>	Helen Evans, Communications Officer

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 2017/18, a total of 33 teleclasses were broadcast and/or made available online after the broadcast.

Participation in Provincial and National Groups

Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group

In 2017, the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG) became a sub-committee of PICNet. PICNet supports the collection, analysis, and public reporting of provincial hand cleaning compliance (HCC) rates in both acute care and residential care facilities.

Bruce Gamage, PICNet Director, was chair of the PHHWG from January 2017 to January 2018 for a one year term. In January 2018, Brian Sagar, Acting Executive Director, Public Health Services at the Ministry of Health became the chair of this Group. The PHHWG has worked over the past year to update the provincial hand hygiene guidelines. The group also reviewed the current recommendations for hand hygiene compliance auditing methodology and targets within the health authorities.

IPAC Canada

PICNet staff continue to play an active role in IPAC (Infection Prevention and Control) Canada, Canada's national infection prevention and control organization. Guanghong

Han sits on the Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group, and Helen Evans took up the position of National Social Media Manager in July 2017. Helen has grown IPAC Canada's number of Twitter followers by 500 since joining, and the number of Facebook followers by 300. Previously, an average of 20 posts were sent out each month; currently that number is 80.



Committees, Working Groups, and Conferences

PICNet staff have representation on several local, provincial, and national committees:

Bruce Gamage, Network Director

- Provincial Antibiotic Stewardship Clinical Expert Group
- Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group
- Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Directors Group (Chair)

Joanne Archer, Education and Best Practices Coordinator

- PICNet Education Steering Committee (Chair), and Guidelines Steering Committee (Chair)
- Standing member of the Northern Health Authority Regional Infection Control Committee
- Member of BC Provincial Tuberculosis Nurse Advisory Committee
- Lower Mainland Facilities Management Infection Control Committee
- Currently active on the IPAC-Canada's Network of Networks committee and the Reprocessing Special Interest Group
- Member of PIDAC Hemodialysis national working group
- Member of Provincial Hemodialysis and Infection Control Working Group

Dr. Guanghong Han, Surveillance Epidemiologist

- PICNet Surveillance Steering Committee (Co-Chair)
- Infection Control Epidemiologist of BC (ICE-BC)
- IPAC-Canada Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group

Helen Evans, Communications Officer

- BC Hand Hygiene Communications Group

Appendices

Appendix A: About PICNet

The Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) is a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) that works with partner organizations across the province to reduce healthcare-associated infections. We do this by improving and sharing evidence-based practices, creating resources, and influencing policy decisions.

Our work is reflected in our vision statement: **Fewer infections – better healthcare.**

Within the context of the strategic goals of the Ministry of Health and the PHSA, the following strategic directions serve as the foundation for PICNet's mission:

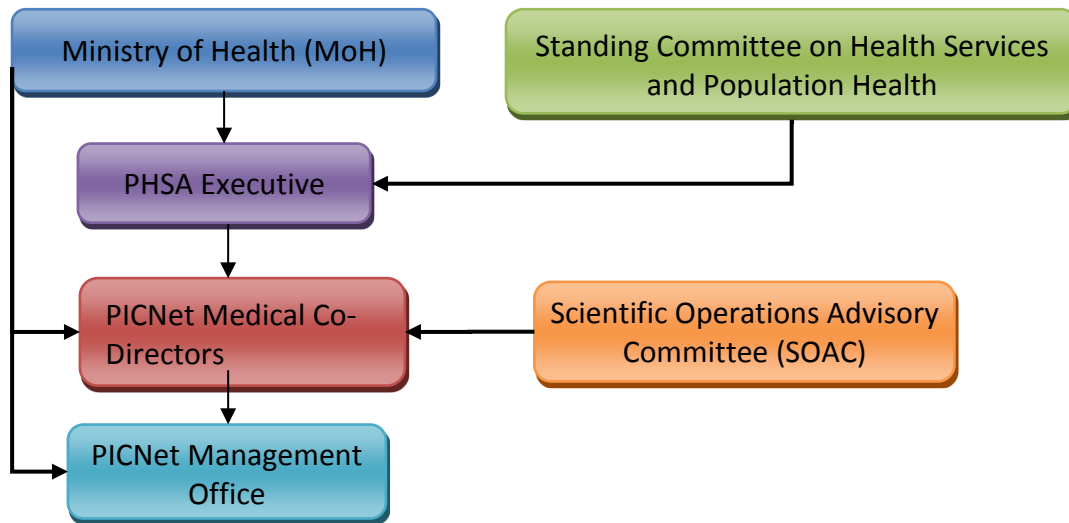
1. Improve coordination in provincial surveillance programs for healthcare-associated infections
2. Enhance communication of infection prevention and control activities across the continuum of care in the province
3. Continue to develop, provide and promote educational opportunities and resources for the community of practice, for both their own professional development and the education of other healthcare providers
4. Develop evidence-based practice guidelines, tools, and resources, and facilitate their implementation
5. Create a forum where experts can work together to provide advice to the Ministry of Health and the health authorities on key infection prevention and control policies, initiatives, and emergencies

Our Community of Practice (CoP) includes infection prevention and control professionals (ICP), medical microbiologists, epidemiologists, physicians, pharmacists, and infectious disease specialists, as well as experts in patient safety and quality, public health, occupational health, and others.

PICNet's strength is built on its strong professional relationships within the infection prevention and control CoP and other partners. These relationships allow PICNet to lead initiatives, in the spirit of collaboration, that work towards minimizing healthcare-associated infections in BC and across Canada.

Reporting Structure

PICNet's Scientific Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC) provides advice to PICNet on its strategic directions and best practices for infection prevention and control. The SOAC is comprised of **Operational Leads**, appointed by each health authority to serve as champions within their own jurisdictions for infection prevention and control, and **Scientific Experts** (in Medical Microbiology, Occupational and Public Health, Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control), appointed by the PICNet Management Office to provide expertise in their profession or discipline.



A more detailed [PICNet reporting structure diagram](#) can be found on the PICNet website.

PICNet Co-Directors and Staff

Dr. Elizabeth Bryce
Medical Co-Director

Bruce Gamage
Network Director (retired June 2018)

Joanne Archer
Education and Practice Coordinator

Romali Ranasinghe
Surveillance Systems Coordinator

Dr. Linda Hoang
Medical Co-Director

Dr. Guanghong Han
Surveillance Epidemiologist

Helen Evans
Communications Officer

Appendix B: Acknowledgements

PICNet is a true network in that we rely on the involvement of all the BC Health Authorities and our Community of Practice. Our Scientific Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC), Surveillance Steering Committee (SSC), Guidelines Steering Committee (GSC), and Education Steering Committee (ESC) are made up of representatives from the health authorities and the Ministry of Health, and we thank them for their valuable contribution of time and expert opinion. 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, Community of Practice members participate in our working groups, provide feedback on draft documents that we post for review, and relay information to their colleagues and staff. PICNet thanks the CoP for its support of PICNet, and contribution to infection prevention and control across the continuum of care.



Appendix C: PICNet Committee Membership

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.

Scientific Operations Advisory Committee

Capacity	Representative of	Member	Job Title
Operations	Interior Health	Valerie Wood	Corporate Director, Infection Prevention and Control
	Fraser Health	Petra Welsh	Infection Prevention and Control Strategy and Performance
	Island Health	Wendy Norman	Director, Infection Prevention and Control
	Ministry of Health	Brian Sagar	Acting Executive Director, Public Health Services, MoH
	Northern Health	Deanna Hembroff	Regional Manager, Infection Prevention and Control
	PHSA	Dr. Jocelyn Srigley	Corporate Director, Infection Prevention and Control
	Vancouver Coastal Health	Allison Muniak	Executive Director, Quality, Patient Safety and Infection Control
	First Nations Health Authority	Wendy Rhymer	Pandemic Influenza Coordinator
Scientific	Infection Control Epidemiologist	Dr. Elisa Lloyd-Smith	Infection Control Epidemiologist, Providence Health
	Infection Control Professional	Lisa Young	Coordinator, Infection Prevention and Control, Emergency Health Services
	Infection Control Professional	Benjamin Shaw	Action Manager, IPAC North Island, Island Health
	Infectious Diseases	Dr. Jan Hayek	Clinical Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases , UBC
	Medical Microbiologist	Dr. Diane Roscoe (until March 2018)	Division Head, Medical Microbiology and Infection Control, VCH
	Medical Microbiologist	Dr. Marthe Charles (from May 2018)	Division Head, Medical Microbiology and Infection Control, VCH
	Medical Microbiologist	Dr. Ghada Al-Rawahi	Medical Microbiologist, PHSA
	Occupational Health and Safety	Marc Jones	Occupational Health & Safety, PHSA
	Public Health	Dr. Eleni Galanis	Physician Epidemiologist, BCCDC

Capacity	Representative of	Member	Job Title
Non-Voting Members	PICNet	Dr. Linda Hoang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICNet Medical Co-Director • Medical Microbiologist, Public Health and Advanced Bacteriology & Mycology Program Head, BCCDC Public Health Laboratory • Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, UBC
	PICNet	Dr. Elizabeth Bryce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICNet Medical Co-Director • Regional Medical Director of Infection Control and Medical Microbiology, VCH • Clinical Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UBC
	PICNet	Bruce Gamage	Network Director
	PICNet	Joanne Archer	Education and Practice Coordinator
	PHSA Executive	Donna Wilson	VP People, Performance & Lower Mainland Laboratories

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. PICNet would like to thank the Surveillance Steering Committee for their hard work this past year.

Member	Job Title and Affiliation
Tara Donovan	Managing Consultant, Fraser Health
Dr. Neil Mina	Medical Microbiologist, Fraser Health
Louis Wong <i>(until Oct 2017)</i>	Epidemiologist, Fraser Health
Katy Short	Epidemiologist, Fraser Health
Aamir Bharmal <i>(Jun 2017 – Mar 2018)</i>	Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health
Xuetao (Ketherine) Wang <i>(from Feb 2018)</i>	Epidemiologist, Fraser Health
Kelly Dillon	Infection Control Practitioner, Interior Health
Dr. Julie Mori	Epidemiologist, Interior Health
Dr. Bing Wang	Medical Microbiologist, Interior Health
Valerie Wood <i>(from Mar 2018)</i>	Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Interior Health
Deanna Hembroff	Regional Manager, Infection Prevention and Control, Northern Health
Dr. Randall Dumont	Pathologist, Northern Health
Leslie Forrester	Epidemiologist, Vancouver Coastal Health
Lisa Harris	Infection Control Practitioner, Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. Titus Wong	Medical Microbiologist, Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. Elisa Lloyd-Smith	Epidemiologist, Providence Care Health
Dr. Christopher Lowe	Medical Microbiologist, Providence Care Health
Blair Ranns	Epidemiologist, Island Health
Dr. Pamela Kibsey	Medical Microbiologist, Island Health
Jun Chen Collet	Epidemiologist, Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. David Goldfrab	Medical Microbiologist, Provincial Health Services Authority
Allison Chant	Infection Control Practitioner, Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. Linda Hoang	Medical Microbiologist, BCCDC
Dr. Elizabeth Bryce	Medical Microbiologist, Vancouver Coastal Health
Bruce Gamage	Network Director, PICNet
Guanghong Han	Epidemiologist, PICNet
Romali Ranasinghe	Surveillance Analyst, PICNet

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 Guideline Working Groups responses to comments received from the community of practice during consultation

Member	Affiliation
Joanne Archer (Chair)	PICNet
Brian Sagar	Ministry of Health
George Astrakianakis	UBC School of Population and Public Health
Ben Shaw	Manager, Infection Control, Island Health
Dr. Victor Leung	Infectious Disease, Providence Health
Valerie Woods	Director, Infection Control, Interior Health

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 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.

Member	Affiliation
Joanne Archer (Chair)	PICNet
Michelle Chang	Provincial Health Services Agency
Eleanor Elston	Island Health
Ruth Duekman	Fraser Health
Roxanne Fitzsimmons	Northern Health
Niki Gill	Interior Health
Kelsi Laporte	Vancouver Coastal
Adrianna Mendes	Provincial Health Services
Coleen Reiswig	Interior Health
Gail Busto	Vancouver Coastal Health
Carolyn Goss	Vancouver Coastal Health
Bal Sidhu	Provincial Health Services
Danielle Richards	Providence Health Care

Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group

The Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (PHHWG) was formed to create a comprehensive Provincial Program across the continuum of client-centered care to improve and sustain hand hygiene compliance rates with the goal to decreasing healthcare associated infections as part of the Ministry of Health (MoH) strategic priority related to hand hygiene.

Member	Affiliation
Brian Sagar (Chair)	Ministry of Health
Miles Hart	Ministry of Health
Petra Welsh	Fraser Health
Angeli Mitri	Fraser health
Jocelyn Srigley	PHSA
Baljinder Sidhu	PHSA
Lisa Young	EHS
Andrea Neil	Interior Health
Valerie Wood	Interior Health
Patricia Bleackley	Vancouver Coastal
Leslie Forrester	Vancouver Coastal
Bonnie Lantz	Providence Health
Wendy Norman	Island Health
Benjamin Shaw	Island Health

Appendix D: Glossary of Acronyms

BC	British Columbia
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
BCCDC PHL	BCCDC Public Health Laboratory
BCHH CoG	British Columbia Hand Hygiene Communications Group (a sub-committee of the PHHWG)
CDI	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection
CoP	Community of Practice
CPO	Carbapenemase-producing organisms
FMT	Fecal microbiota therapy
GSC	Guidelines Steering Committee
HAI	Healthcare-associated infection
HCC	Hand cleaning compliance
HTAC	Healthcare Technologies Assessment Branch
ICP	Infection Control Professional/Practitioner
IPAC-Canada	Infection Prevention and Control Canada
MoH	Ministry of Health
MDRO	Multi-drug resistant organisms
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
SSC	Surveillance Steering Committee
UBC	University of British Columbia
WGS	whole genome sequencing

