



888938

July 29, 2011

Ms. Lynda Cranston  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Provincial Health Services Authority  
700 – 1380 Burrard St  
Vancouver BC V6Z 2H3

Dear Ms. Cranston:

In recognition of the importance of controlling healthcare associated infections, hand hygiene has been identified as a priority area for the Ministry of Health's (the Ministry) Clinical Care Management (CCM) initiative. I am pleased to report that work to develop a sustainable, coordinated and evidence-informed provincial hand hygiene program is well underway. The Provincial Infection Control Network (PICNet), in collaboration with health authorities, the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council and the Ministry, are creating a multi-faceted framework that builds upon existing provincial strengths and promotes continuous, system-wide improvement.

A key component of BC's new hand hygiene program is the ongoing measurement and monitoring of hand hygiene compliance within hospitals and other health care facilities. Since April 2011, all health authorities and Providence Health Care have been auditing hand hygiene compliance using a common provincial methodology. At this time, I ask that your organization continue to carry out ongoing, facility-wide, observational hand hygiene compliance audits in accordance with the standardized surveillance methodology developed by the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group (see Appendix 1). Beginning with Q1 data from the 2011/12 fiscal year, I also ask that your organization please submit hand hygiene compliance results for all surveyed clinical areas to PICNet on a quarterly basis for compilation, analysis and, ultimately, reporting to the Ministry, the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group, and the CCM Steering Committee. The provincial hand hygiene audit tool has been provided in Appendix 2 as reference.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Provincial Hand Hygiene Working Group, health authority staff, PICNet and the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council for their continued support of and commitment to improving hand hygiene compliance in BC. The continued collaboration and commitment of all those involved provides a clear example of the positive in-roads that can be made through provincial process and partnership.

...2

If you have any questions or concerns about the details of this letter, please contact Brenda Canitz, Executive Director, Clinical Care & Patient Safety, Ministry of Health, by telephone at: 250 952-2738 or by email at: [Brenda.Canitz@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brenda.Canitz@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Effie Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

for Heather Davidson  
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment