



ISSUE No.7

• Medical Newsletter October 2012 •

30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NZNO NATIONAL DIVISION OF INFECTION CONTROL NURSES



30th Annual Conference of the NZNO National Division of Infection Control Nurses was held August 29-31 in Rotorua, New Zealand. The objectives of this conference were to learn from the local (New Zealand) as well as international experts on their experience, skills and research in infection control.

The topics of the lectures included the New Zealand's situation of Healthcare-associated Infection, Outbreaks of infection at hospitals, and Implementation of the National Central Line Associated Bacteraemia project in hospitals.

Surgical Site Infection (SSI) constitutes the 2nd largest category of adverse events after Urinary Tract Infection, and 5-10% of patients admitted to acute hospitals acquire one or more infection. One-fourth occur in patients in ICU and increasingly caused by Multidrug Resistant Organisms (MRO) such as MRSA and VRE. *C. difficile* is little known in New Zealand, but from the laboratory-based survey for one month, November 2011, 135 unique patient isolates from several regions were confirmed. To reduce HAI in New Zealand, the Infection Prevention & Control program is conducted by Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand which was established under the New Zealand Public Health & Disability Amendment Act 2010 and provides support across the whole health and disability sector through many programs.



There are 3 parts to this program, “Hand Hygiene New Zealand”, “Target CLAB ZERO” and “National Surgical Site Infection Surveillance”. These programs are showing improvements, there still remain challenges such as limited resources of Infection Prevention & Control workforce, lack of Healthcare Workers’ recognition on the importance on Hand Hygiene, for which different levels of evidence will be required to change their belief systems, and etc.

HONG KONG ICNA 2012 - 5TH INTERNATIONAL INFECTION CONTROL CONFERENCE

The 5th International Infection Control Conference was held by the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses’ Association on August 24th, 25th and 26th in Hong Kong. The conference started with the official release of the Hong Kong version of the Hand Hygiene Dance performed by children aged from 6 to 12 of the Scout Association of Hong Kong. This Hand Hygiene Dance has been made to promote the WHO Hand Hygiene Campaign message on the importance of hand hygiene. (The video of the dance is available to watch at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62GyGiry3qM>)



Lecturers came from all around Hong Kong and the world to discuss healthcare hygiene related topics such as “Hand Hygiene: how to improve compliance rate”, “Environmental Disinfection: conventional method vs. new technologies”, “CLA-BSI: Zero infection rate can be achievable”, and “Infection Control in Hong Kong: outbreak in the past and infection control activities, had an impact on the audience.” Although Hand Hygiene is not a new topic, Prof. Didier Pittet highlighted that system change is key for success, introducing Alcohol-based Hand Rub (ABHR) at point of care instead of using Soap & Water (in case of no visible soil). Compliance with the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene, Education of healthcare workers, Monitoring and feedback of performance, Reminders (posters) in the work place, Administrative support and Leadership are also necessary for Hand Hygiene improvement. Prof. Didier Pittet also presented data on ABHR use at the University of Geneva Hospital, Switzerland. Through 17 year of hand rub use promotion, the compliance rate at this hospital has gone up to 78% and ABHR consumption now has gone over 30,000 liters a year.

In Hong Kong, surveys on Hand Hygiene have also been presented. Mr. Heyman Tang and Ms. Chan Ah Yung shared us examples of Hand Hygiene issues faced at some hospitals in ED in New Territories West Cluster (NTWC). According to their survey, the issues most at the cause of low hand hygiene compliance were inconvenience & inaccessible supplies, skin irritation, forgetfulness, high workload, etc. To remedy against those issues, they implemented several strategies such as setting up No-touch dispensers for ABHR with attractive posters and easy to remember content, introducing Skin Protection Cream and appointing some nurses as Hand Hygiene Ambassadors to encourage and make sure the whole staff was performing proper hand hygiene. The situation is not ideal yet, however the compliance rate has been found to drastically increase after the intervention.