



Board Executive:

Chair - **Kim Chapman**

Secretary/Treasurer -
Theresa Marie Underhill

APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network
Réseau d'Oncologie et Hématologie Pédiatrique des Provinces Atlantiques
Winter 2006/2007 Issue 12

Conference 2007

The annual conference is fast approaching. This year it will be held on Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th. The theme is communication. The following is a list of some of the committed speakers and some topics of their presentations **Dr. Eileen McBride**, practical approach to bleeding disorders; **Dr. Nicole Leblanc**, reaching out to families in distress; **Dr. Conrad Fernandez**, research results; **Dr. Bruce Crooks**, Retinoblastoma; **Barb McCully**, alternate drug therapies; **Annette Penney**, long term follow up care; **Cancer Care Nova Scotia**, communication module; **Dr. Mark Bernstein**, topic TBA; and a **guest speaker**, yet to be determined.

Back by popular demand will be the discipline specific group meetings as well as inter-provincial meetings.

It promises to be a great conference and we welcome this year's moderator, **Dr. Bruce Crooks**.

On behalf of myself and the board we would like to thank you for your past support and we look forward to seeing everyone again this year. The confirmed agenda will be sent to everyone in March with the registration

form. If you have any questions please contact the APPHON coordinator, Carol at carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca, phone: 902-470-7429.

Using "out-of-house" Guidelines and Policies

Do health professionals at your health centre use the APPHON supportive care guidelines and/or some of the IWK clinical policies [e.g. central line care]? Does your centre have a policy in place to cover that practice?

For example one approach would be like 6 North at the IWK Health Centre. They have a written policy, that in order to provide safe, consistent care of pediatric hematology and oncology patients, health professionals should use APPHON approved Supportive Care Guidelines.

Another Maritime Health Centre, within their policy on standards of care, includes "The IWK Health Centre care protocols and guidelines will be used for pediatric patients whose care has been initiated at the IWK and shared with xxx."

APPHON recommends that facilities using our guidelines or other centres' policies have policies in place to cover that practice.

What is the policy at your health centre? -
Mickie Al-Molky LoC Coordinator

Clinical Practice Tip

Implanted CVAD Complications

Serious complications can occur with implanted CVADs. Some of these complications can result in port removal and replacement. In some cases the complication is preventable.

Below are pictures of damage to a portal that resulted from repeated access into one insertion point of the portal. Overtime, skin damage with subsequent skin breakdown resulted.



Repeated access point



Skin erosion



Damaged PAC septum

Key Point: When implanted CVADs (Port/PAC) are accessed on a continuous basis, use the entire surface area of the portal by slightly varying the insertion point with each access.

Ann Higgins, IWK Health Centre CVA Nurse, Chair CVAD & MOM committee

Website

The APPHON website has a new section. On the main page, at the bottom, there is a link to reworks. APPHON has collected hundreds of articles. If you are looking for a recent article (post 2000) you can now look it up on our website. Currently there are over 200 references listed. You can search by topic or author. It will also give you the abstract of the article.

This section will be continually expanded.

Please note that there are new French Guidelines that have been distributed. They are also on our website.

If you do not have website access and would like to, please contact Carol at carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca.

If you have lost your password you can go to the APPHON site and hit the 'lost password' button. Your password will be sent to you immediately.

Any problems with the website please contact Carol.

Guideline Up-dates

Presently we send hard copy guideline updates to all Atlantic Provincial hospitals where cancer care is provided to children and any physicians looking after a child with an oncologic or hematologic problem.

In the future we are going to send them electronically with a note to please up-date your binder. They are also all on our website. If there is any reason why you cannot access them electronically please let Carol know and she will send them via Canada Post.

Our Vision:
To facilitate access for
Atlantic province
children and youth to
comprehensive,
current, effective,
evidence-based
hematologic/oncologic
treatment delivered as
close to home as safely
feasible
