



Board Executive:

Chair - Dr. Mark Bernstein

Secretary/Treasurer - TBA

APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network
Réseau d'Oncologie et Hématologie Pédiatrique des Provinces Atlantiques

Spring 2013

2013 Conference

The APPHON/ROHPPA Conference will be held on November 14th, 15th and 16th, 2013. Please note that this year we are going to have a one day special conference on Hemophilia. Dr. Vicky Price has arranged the Thursday's agenda which is attached. Friday's and Saturday's agenda are still being developed.

Thursday will be solely hematology, Friday will be a hematology/oncology combination and Saturday will be mainly oncology. The registration form will be posted on the APPHON/ROHPPA website and you will have the option of which days you are going to attend.

APPHON/ROHPPA Board of Directors

There have been a few changes to the APPHON/ROHPPA Board of Directors. It is with regret we announce the departure from the Board of Theresa Marie Underhill, Charlie Coade and Dr. Emile Paras in October. All have made great contributions to APPHON/ROHPPA and they will be missed.

Post Completion of Therapy Fever - Dr. Conrad Fernandez

All hematology/oncology patients who are febrile should go to the closest emergency for a minimum of 3 months after completion of chemotherapy/immunotherapy for CBC, physical exam and decision about antibiotics. Please discuss care of those who have undergone a bone marrow transplant or have an underlying immunodeficiency with the oncologist on call. These patients require prolonged and specific interventions.

Treatment is as follows for all others:

- a) If the child is neutropenic or is known to be hypogammaglobulinemia secondary to rituxumab: Low risk febrile neutropenia protocol.
- b) If the child is not neutropenic but is unwell: Tazocin/vancomycin to provide antibiotic coverage for any central line infection OR appropriate antibiotics for clinical illness (e.g. pneumonia).
- c) If the child is not neutropenic and not unwell but has a central line: Ceftriaxone until cultures available unless very specific focus of infection

is present. This treatment can be outpatient.

- d) If the child is not neutropenic, and not unwell, does not have a central line, and has not received rituxumab: The child should be treated like any other child with a fever.

Beyond 3 months after the end of treatment with chemotherapy/Immunotherapy, the decision on how to manage a fever would be similar to management of any child unless the child is known to have prolonged recovery of counts, is post rituxumab and has hypogammaglobulinemia, or if their central line is still in place.

Dr. Jack Hand Educational Fund

Applications for educational funding through APPHON/ROHPPA's Dr. Jack Hand Educational Fund are now being accepted. The application can be found on our website (www.apphon-rohppa.com) and the deadline is June 30, 2013.

APPHON guidelines update - Tamara MacDonald, APPHON/ROHPPA Guideline Coordinator

APPHON/ROHPPA has adopted the pediatric oncology group of Ontario's (POGO) emetogenicity guideline. We are in the process of adapting the POGO management of acute induced nausea and vomiting (AINV), this will replace the current nausea and vomiting APPHON/ROHPPA guideline. Both of these guidelines have been endorsed through C17. We are adapting the newly completed C17 primary antifungal prophylaxis guideline. We are currently updating the APPHON/ROHPPA febrile neutropenia guideline which will reflect drug changes and risk factor changes. The updated APPHON/ROHPPA guideline

for the management and prevention of infection in asplenia patients is near completion. The APPHON/ROHPPA sickle cell guideline will be updated once the asplenia guideline is complete. The APPHON/ROHPPA immunization guideline is the next guideline to go through a full update which we hope to start in the fall of 2013.

Welcome to Dr. Moorehead: Stephanie Eason, Levels of Care Coordinator (Newfoundland)

In January 2013, Dr. Paul Moorehead joined Dr. Lynette Bowes and Dr. Lisa Goodyear at the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre as Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist. Paul is well known to the Janeway, having completed his residency there and returned as locum for pediatric hematology/oncology on several occasions. He completed his medical degree at University of Manitoba and his fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at University of Ottawa. Paul is currently involved in several hematology research projects with colleagues across Canada.

Communication - 6 North Clinic, IWK Health Centre

Communication of relevant information between centres in an efficient and effective manner can be a challenge. The patient load in all of our work places seems to be increasing and resources are limited. To make sure that we are not duplicating or making extra work, suggestions include:

- For the oncology population, information that is not related to the oncology diagnosis doesn't need to be faxed (e.g. ED visits about a minor injury).

- Information sent to the home centres could be shared among all relevant players at that site, e.g. if something has been sent to the home pediatrician or family doctor, perhaps they could share copies with the oncology clinic at the local hospital and vice versa.
- Any other ideas are welcomed.

Nursing Standards & Competency - Cathie Watson, Levels of Care Coordinator, Maritimes

Welcome to spring! I recently attended parts of the 2 day “Association of Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology Nurses [APHON] Pediatric Chemotherapy Biotherapy Provider” course which was put on by the certified APHON instructors at the IWK and using video conferencing to Moncton. There were a total of 18 Registered Nurses from around the Maritime Provinces (7 at the Moncton site and 11 at the Halifax site) who became ‘current’ pediatric chemotherapy biotherapy providers. Excellent job was done by Mary Jean, Krista and Amy (and also Phyllis who acted as a proctor in Moncton). This was the first time they have tried providing the course via video conferencing and while there were a few technical glitches, I believe that in the end everyone was satisfied with the process.

I was reminded during the course and I want to remind all of the current providers (and their managers) that **APPHON/ROHPPA** has a requirement for maintaining clinical competency. Taking the APHON course, completing the exam, and then doing APHON’s biannual review and exam is the *knowledge* piece of maintaining competency. Doing an initial competency sign-off of three supervised administrations (including one

vesicant) is the beginning of the *skill* piece of clinical competency. One tool for maintaining the *skill* piece is the “APPHON/ROHPPA Pediatric Chemotherapy Administration Clinical Competency Checklist” which is to be completed annually.

This ‘Competency Checklist’ is now on our website www.apphon-rohppa.com; you will find it under the “Education tab” (also under the Education tab are links to a presentation on Febrile Neutropenia and to the last APHON Chemotherapy Biotherapy Update).

Each nurse is responsible for maintaining their competency and the institution (i.e. manager or clinical resource) needs to keep accurate records of who the “current pediatric chemotherapy biotherapy providers” are. Thanks and I hope that you are enjoying the spring weather we are finally getting.

Newfoundland and Levels of Care: -Stephanie Eason, Levels of Care Coordinator, Newfoundland

Stephanie Eason and Dr. Lisa Goodyear have begun offering webinar sessions to hospitals in Newfoundland. The webinars have been well received in St. Anthony, Goose Bay and Labrador City. Staff members from each centre have provided positive feedback regarding our levels of care presentations and they are hopeful that we will be able to coordinate some educational sessions in the future. These electronic meetings have opened a pathway of communication with these health care centers that did not previously exist. Although we are not getting to see the hospitals, the effectiveness of the webinar sessions appear to be comparable to the physical visits completed at other centers.

**Conference on Hemophilia
Agenda - ATLANTIC HEMOPHILIA
WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2013**

**Theme: Managing Joint and Muscle
Bleeds in Hemophilia**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

7:30 - 8:15 Registration and Breakfast
Children's Site Boardroom

8:15 - 3:30 Welcome/Introduction
(Vicky Price)
O.E. Smith Auditorium

Session 1 - O.E. Smith Auditorium

8:30 - 9:15 Hemophilia 101, How to
Treat a Joint/Muscle Bleed,
Prophylaxis

9:15 - 10:00 How I Manage Hemophilia
from a Distance

10:00 - 10:30 MORNING BREAK

Session 2 - O.E. Smith Auditorium

10:30 - 11:15 When to Refer and
Principles of Rehabilitation
(CJ)

11:15 - 12:00 Joints - Through the
Lifespan (Physio from BC)

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH (Discipline Breakout
Meet and Greet)
Parker Reception Room

Session 3 - O.E. Smith Auditorium

1:00 - 1:45 Hemophilia in the Canadian
Culture - Growing Up with
Don Cherry

1:45 - 2:30 Ortho Talk

2:30 - 2:45 AFTERNOON BREAK

Session 4 - O.E. Smith Auditorium

2:45 - 3:15 Nursing - Nursing Triage,
Factor, Navigating the ER

3:15 - 4pm Patient Panel

4:00 - 4:15 Wrap Up

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

9:00 - 12:00 Physio Examination (CJ) -
Nurses will join for 1st hour
Classroom B&C

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.*
