

APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER ----APPHON/ROHPPA

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

Summer/Fall 2005 Issue 7

Board Executive:

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Patient and Provider Safety Conference

Time to mark your calendars the Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. The conference will take place at the IWK Health Centre, October 14-15th. This year's topic is "Safe Practices for Better Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Health Care." The National Quality Forum [USA] has divided safety practice in Health care into five broad categories:

- Creating a culture of safety
- Matching healthcare needs with service delivery capabilities
- Facilitating information transfer and clear communication
- Adopting safe practices in specific clinical settings or for specific processes of care
- Increasing safe medication use.

Confirmed speakers include: Dr. Kevin Oeffinger, Anne McGuire, Dr. Noni MacDonald, Dr. Allen Finley, Dr. Bruce Crooks, Dr. Marc Blumberg, Dr. Vicky Price and a demonstration from Intellidose. Anyone with a suggestion for a related topic or speaker, contact Carol Digout at: 902-470-7429 or email carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca. A current agenda for the conference will be posted on the APPHON web site. (See page 2 for web-site information).

New Coordinator

We welcome Carol Digout as the temporary APPHON Coordinator. Carol has a degree in psychology and was working on her MBA before moving to the Middle East.

Carol hopes to start her Masters of Health Administration next fall. Carol has worked as an Administrative Manager in a local medical center and did a locum as the Quality Assurance Coordinator for the emergency department and EMS for the Hamad General Hospital in Qatar.



Carol Digout

Levels of Care - Update

It is an exciting time at APPHONS/ROHPPA. We have now completed seven LoC site visits, including the 5 pilot sites and are now very busy doing site reports and making plans to visit the other nine health centers on our list. We plan to have completed all site visits and summary reports by spring, 2006.

Supportive Care Guideline binders have been completed and sent out to all health centers and physicians involved in the active treatment of children with cancer. We are currently having our teams continue to up-date/develop guidelines that will be distributed upon completion. Guidelines will also be available on the web site.

The APPHON Website

The APPHON web site is progressing and will hopefully become a vital resource in our development of new and better treatments for cancer in children. Health Professionals visiting the web site can go to www.apphon-rohppa.ca and log on as a visitor at the home page using:

Email: visitor@apphon-rohppa.ca

Password: visitor

The web site does not permit you access to the protocol section or the contact information for the Hospitals. A public link is being planned. To gain full web site privileges, one must sign in as a visitor then click on the 'register here' link. Once you fill out the registration information it will be e-mailed to the APPHON-admin, Carol Digout, who will review the application and give out full site privileges. New information is being placed on the web site weekly so keep checking. Anyone having difficulties accessing the web site or ideas on how to improve the site can call Carol at 902-470-7429; e-mail: carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca.

The Delphi Technique

The Delphi Technique is a formalized process for a group to creatively share ideas on how to plan or solve a problem. It is similar to a brainstorming session only the people are not gathered in one place but conduct the information gathering via e-mail or postal service. The benefit of using the Delphi Technique is that everyone has equal opportunity to be heard and to hear others.

The process is quite simple. Briefly an issue or question is posed to the group. The participants then e-mail back brief, concise ideas to a coordinator. The coordinator then sends the group all the ideas generated. Individual group members give more suggestions to refine the ideas, listing strengths and weaknesses. This process is repeated several times within a defined time frame. All the ideas are rated to see which best suits the issue or problem. Ultimately, consensus is achieved about the sought guideline, policy, process, etc. An example of a question is "what action could be taken to provide faster response to patient inquiries between visits?" If anyone has a problem, or issue, related to safety, that they think would benefit from the Delphi Technique please contact Carol at:(902)470-7429.

Tressie Up-date



Tressie Dutchyn and fiancé Joseph have tied the knot. The couple were married on July 30th in Little Nahant, Massachusetts. Congratulations and best wishes to the bride and groom. Tressie has sent a note of thanks to APPHON for the 2 Nova Scotia crystal goblets.

Guideline Development

In keeping with the 2005 AGM theme of safety, APPHON is looking for help in choosing a guideline to be developed this year. Possible suggestions for a topic: prevention of central venous line catheter infections; safe sedation of children. We are looking for any more suggestions on potential guidelines as well as volunteers for a working group to develop them. Anyone with suggestions or willing to work on a group contact Carol at 902-470-7429 or email: carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca

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
