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APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network
Réseau d'Oncologie et Hématologie Pédiatrique des Provinces Atlantiques
Fall 2006 Issue 11

APPHON Dollhouse



Maartje Stroink with Nathan Ryan

Congratulations to Sarah Macken, niece of Dr. Marion Macken who won the beautiful dollhouse donated by Lorne MacPhail. Big thanks to Nathan Ryan, from Prince Edward Island who kindly selected the winning ticket.

APPHON Chair

In the last APPHON newsletter it was reported that Kim Chapman, from New Brunswick, was selected as the interim chair for APPHON. Since then, the board has voted and made Kim permanent Chair for APPHON. Congratulations Kim!

Spring Conference

Plans are underway for the 2007 APPHON Annual General Meeting. The AGM and conference will be held on April 27th and 28th at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax. Mark your calendars! More details to follow.

Important -Guideline Correction!

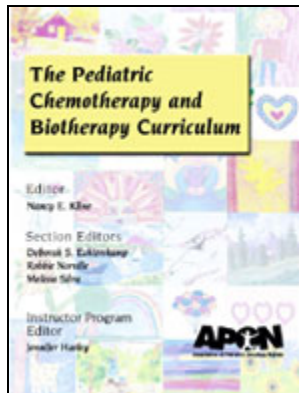
The APPHON supportive care guideline, Guidelines for Management of Constipation, revised July 2005, has an error. On page 3, under stimulant laxatives - bisacodyl (Dulcolax), it states it should be taken within one hour of antacids or milk. This is incorrect. It should state, "Do not take within one hour of antacids or milk." This has been corrected on the website and corrected hardcopies will be sent to those with binders.

Levels of Care

Mickie Al-Molky, our Levels of Care coordinator, presented at a concurrent session at the 14th International Cancer Care Nursing Conference in Toronto held September 26- October 1. Reports are she did an excellent job presenting on the APPHON Levels of Care.

The Levels of Care implementation is alive and well, albeit inconspicuous to many. Revisions of documents and tools, data collection, and progress, continue.

APON's Pediatric Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Provider Program



APON's Pediatric Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Provider Program was developed to help standardize the education of nurses in regard to administration of chemotherapy and biotherapy in Paediatrics. There is a national and international move toward a current standardized knowledge base for health professionals who care for oncology / haematology patients and families. APON has been in existence for 30 years, and is the leading organization in pediatric oncology / haematology for nursing. In the Atlantic Province, we now have this course available to us, and it is being offered to APPHON members in November of this year. The course is currently full, but will be offered again

in the spring, and then on a regular basis. We will keep you posted.

Provider Course:

- The only program designed to provide nurses with the knowledge needed to safely administer chemotherapy and biotherapy to children and adolescents with cancer.
- Each participant receives *The Pediatric Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Curriculum*; a 250-page book, the only comprehensive curriculum pertaining to pediatric chemotherapy and biotherapy administration.
- Participants receive instruction on the difference between adult and pediatric cancers, clinical trials, chemotherapy and biotherapy agents and administration, side effects, toxicity and symptom management, psychosocial issues and legal and ethical issues. This 2-day course offers 16.5 nursing contact hours.

Following course attendance and successful completion of an exam, participants are issued an APON pediatric chemotherapy and biotherapy provider card that recognizes that the participant has met APON educational standards for chemotherapy and biotherapy administration to children and adolescents. The card indicates the nurse has the knowledge required to administer pediatric chemotherapy and biotherapy, but does not ensure clinical competence. Resources for measurement of clinical competence are provided in the curriculum. *Mary Jean Howitt*

Anyone wanting more information please contact Mary Jean Howitt: MaryJean.Howitt@iwk.nshealth.ca

Delphi Technique

Cancer Care Nova Scotia is currently working on a Distress Management Guideline for Adults. The psychosocial working group for APPHON has decided that they are going to work on a Distress Management Guideline for Pediatrics.

In order to make sure that there is a good representation of ideas and that all disciplines have input into a Distress Management Guideline we have decided to conduct a Delphi technique. We will hopefully get a good response from members of APPHON that will result in a guideline that will be useful. We want to make sure that the guideline will be something that will be beneficial to you and your patients.

We will be contacting people to participate in the next few weeks. It will only take a few minutes a week to complete and is done via e-mail. Instructions will follow in the weeks to come. If a Distress Management Guideline is something you feel is important and you would like to be involved in the Delphi Technique please email carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca or phone 902-470-7429.

Info- Hope Project Coordinator

Congratulations to Annette Landry who was employed as the first Info-Hope Project coordinator. The position is for three years and was created through the Tree Of Hope fund raising at the Dr. Leon-Richard cancer center in Moncton. The position was created to identify pediatric-oncologic resources, to improve patient care, to identify the needs of the patients and families and to further improve our system.

Annette can be reached at (506) 862-4008 (telephone); (506) 869-2133 (fax);

Important Tidbits

- There is an up-dated IWK telephone list on the website.
- The IWK welcomes Dr. Mark Bernstein, previously from Ste. Justine Hospital in Quebec, to their pediatric hem/onc service. Dr. Bernstein comes as the new Division Head for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.
- We are actively seeking articles for our newsletter. We want to hear from you! Anything going on in your hospital you would like to share? Anyone new in your service? We want to know.
- Any health professional who does not have access to the APPHON website please contact Carol Digout at: email carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca: phone no. 902-470-7429

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
