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## APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

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

### Winter/Spring 2015

#### New Vice Chair

The APPHON/ROHPPA Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the position of Vice Chair has been filled by Dr. Lynette Bowes. Lynette is a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist and Head of the Oncology/Hematology at the Janeway Child Health & Rehabilitation Centre in St. John's, Newfoundland. She is well known to the APPHON/ROHPPA community for her active participation in all that is APPHON/ROHPPA.

#### 2014 Conference

The annual fall conference and meeting occurred in November and the feedback communicated that it was a valuable learning experience. The hematology day was all about anemias; types of anemias, causes, genetic links, neonatal screening, iron deficiencies and treatments, as well as transfusion updates. The oncology segment focused on Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Survivorship challenges, as well as the work that is developing locally and nationally in this area. Key topics such as biology of the AYA, late effects and follow-up, COG Survivorship Guidelines, transition to adult care, fertility preservation, and patient adherence strategies were presented. In addition, the new Febrile Neutropenia

Orders and Algorithm, as well as the National Palliative Care Education Project for Health Care Providers were highlighted. The presentations by young adult cancer survivors were very engaging, causing us all to listen and reflect on how we can better meet the needs of this patient population.

A big thank you to all who contributed their expertise and to all those who attended. Hope to see you in the fall!

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#### 2015 APPHON/ROHPPA Conference

The dates for the fall 2015 conference have been confirmed, save the dates:  
**November 12-14, 2015.**

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#### Febrile Neutropenia

The revised Febrile Neutropenia Guideline, as well as the pre-printed order and algorithm, are now finalized and posted on the APPHON/ROHPPA website under the 'Guideline' link. Please note the change to one order set from two, and the elimination of 'high versus low risk'. The patient's Treat

Promptly Cards will be updated to reflect the new orders as they visit the IWK; as a result there will be a period of time where the treatment instructions on the card will not reflect the new orders/algorithm. In this case, please use the new order set instead. Please forward any questions you may have about the orders, algorithm or guideline to Dr. Tamara MacDonald:

[Tamara.MacDonald@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Tamara.MacDonald@iwk.nshealth.ca)

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## **Shared Care Communication Tools**

As presented at the APPHON/ROHPPA Fall conference, two communication tools have been created for our use. The purpose of these documents is to facilitate consistency, efficiency, and clarity when communicating shared care information about pediatric hematology/oncology patients between health care partners. The *Shared Care Communication Tool* is meant to preface and summarize contents of patient information packages sent to other health care providers. The *Request for Information Tool* is meant to be used when seeking out information from other Health Care providers. They are posted on the APPHON/ROHPPA website under Levels of Care, along with a **Shared Care Communication Tools User Guide**. Please review the user guide before using.

***The utilization and evaluation plan:*** after an initial trial between 4 centers in the spring/summer of 2014, the documents have been approved by the APPHON/ROHPPA Board of Directors for broader use and evaluation by all APPHON/ROHPPA partners between November 2014 and May 2015. Feedback around their applicability and practicality will be received at any time; please forward to:

[MaryJean.Howitt@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:MaryJean.Howitt@iwk.nshealth.ca)

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## **Automated and Manual ANC**

Recently, COG CRA Steering provided recommendation for when the automated calculation of ANC is different from the manually calculated ANC and therapy will be affected.

The Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) is used as a measure:

- for COG eligibility criteria
- to begin treatment
- to start a course/cycle of therapy
- to alter therapy

The purpose for holding therapy until an acceptable ANC has been met is an established practice to help assure the patient is able to safely receive chemotherapy.

When the automated calculation of ANC is different from the manually calculated ANC and therapy will be affected, **per COG, the manually calculated ANC should be considered the standard by which therapy should be directed.**

While there is more than one way to calculate an ANC, at the IWK the following will be used:

**ANC = WBC x 1000 (% Neutrophils\* + % Bands)**

**You must use the percentage of neutrophils and bands expressed as a decimal.**

\*may be reported as Segs on the CBC (segmented neutrophils)

When the lab has only reported an automatic differential -please use this to determine the ANC.

***Gloria Gallant, Clinical Leader, IWK Health Centre***

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## Upcoming APHON Chemotherapy/ Biotherapy Provider course

There is an upcoming date for Association of Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology Nurses (APHON) Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Provider Courses on June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the IWK Health Center with videoconferencing to the George Dumont Hospital. Please refer to the APPHON/ROHPPA website under the 'Teaching and Education' link for registration forms. For more information contact: [MaryJean.Howitt@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:MaryJean.Howitt@iwk.nshealth.ca) or [Christa.McGuirk@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Christa.McGuirk@iwk.nshealth.ca).

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## Internet Links Pertaining to Pediatric and Adolescent Oncology and Hematology are now on the APPHON/ROHPPA website

These Internet Resources have been divided into resources for *Patients and families* and resources for *Health Professionals*. They can be found under 'Links' and include website descriptions to determine suitability of site for learning needs. These lists are by no means exhaustive and will be updated as new resources are available. Please note that the following link to the COG Survivorship Guidelines is included in the list <http://www.survivorshipguidelines.org/>

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## CVAD Movie Part 1... An Orientation to CVADs in the Pediatric Population

A CVAD orientation video is now posted on the APPHON/ROHPPA website under *Teaching and Education*, under *Teaching*. It describes different types of CVADS and why one may be chosen instead of another. It demonstrates Port-a-Cath access and deaccess using a variety of PAC needles, as well as external catheter cap and dressing change. It includes the care of PICC lines. Stay tuned for Part 2- *CVAD complications and their Management!*

## C17 Antifungal Guideline and POGO Emetogenicity Guideline on APPHON/ROHPPA Website

APPHON has adapted the C17 Guideline for Primary Antifungal Prophylaxis for Pediatric Patients with Cancer or Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant and has adopted the POGO C17 Guideline for Classification of the Acute Emetogenic Potential of Antineoplastic Medication in Pediatric Cancer Patients. These guidelines are now posted on the APPHON/ROHPPA website.

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## Guideline for Mouth and Dental Care for Pediatric Oncology Patients and Families

We are happy to announce that the Guidelines for Mouth and Dental Care for Pediatric Oncology Patients and Families have been updated to reflect current evidence based practice, reviewed and approved by the IWK and Janeway pediatric dentists and hematology and oncology teams. This guideline reflects the information that the pediatric dentist would provide to a child/adolescent and family with a newly diagnosed cancer.

**The following are the key practice changes:**

- All oncology patients should be brushing teeth twice daily with fluoride containing gel toothpaste using a soft toothbrush (note that toothettes are no longer recommended).
- Chlorhexidine 0.12% mouth rinse should be used on gums, teeth and oral mucosa *two times/day* (a change from four times daily).

See the 2015 guideline on the website for full details.

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## **New\* APPHON/ROHPPA Levels of Care Cheat Sheet.**

This resource has been developed to delineate the abilities of each APPHON/ROHPPA Level of Care at a glance. It will be useful for those centers that are working with multiple centers at multiple levels, but is there for everyone's reference. It is posted on the website under 'Levels of Care'.

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## **A Change in Long Term Follow-up Clinic**

Many of you may be aware that Annette Penny is looking forward to a fun filled retirement by the end of April. Annette has devoted her entire career of 35 years to the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology patient population. She has held a variety of roles at the IWK, but for the last 9 years has held the position of Long Term Follow-up (LTF) Coordinator. Annette has been a pioneer and pillar in the development of Long Term Follow-up Care for pediatric, adolescent and young adults (AYA) in the Maritime Provinces. She utilized her Master's in Nursing to research the topic of *The Role of Self Efficacy in Health Behaviours of Long Term Survivors*, which she then applied to the patients who are cared for through the LTF clinic. She has been involved in national committees such as *National Taskforce for AYA Oncology Care*, ensuring a voice for Atlantic Canada, as well as the CANO National Representative for 4 years, and the provincial president for 10 years. Her expertise and passion for this population has laid the foundation for ongoing care, as well as future developments in LTF in the Atlantic Provinces. Thank you Annette for all of your hard work and devotion to children, adolescents and young adults with cancer. You will certainly be missed and remembered!

Following in her foot steps will be someone well known to many of you; Annette Flanders. Annette has worked for 12 years at the IWK with the Hematology/Oncology patient population in a variety of roles. For many of those years she has been a Family Care Coordinator for patients on treatment and in active follow-up. Annette has more recently completed a *Master's in Education in Life Long Learning* which will enhance her solid understanding of the patient/family challenges and treatment/disease sequela. Annette's energy, vision and passion for the patients and families we serve will be a huge asset to her role. I do think we are just as excited to welcome Annette Flanders in this role as she is to accept it!

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## **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.***

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