APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

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

Summer 2011

2011 Conference:

Speakers are now being booked for the November 4th and 5th annual APPHON/ROHPPA conference. To date a speaker on Reovirus, qualitative research and cortisol have been booked.

If there are any other requests let Carol Digout know and she will arrange an appropriate speaker.

Cathie Watson, Levels of Care Coordinator, Maritimes

New Maritime Levels of Care Coordinator

APPHON/ROHPPA is pleased to welcome Cathie Watson to the team as the Levels of Care Coordinator for the Maritimes.

Cathie started as LOC coordinator on May 2nd. She comes to us from the Pictou County Health Authority in New Glasgow, NS where she was the nurse manager. Cathie's previous role as a manager of the Maternal Child Unit and cancer services at the Aberdeen Hospital from 2000 to 2009 is how she got her introduction to APPHON/ROHPPA as the organizational designate.

Previous to 2000, Cathie worked at both the Sick Kids in Toronto and the Winnipeg Children's Hospital; she also has experience teaching nursing and working with the NS Provincial Home Care Program.

Cathie has relocated to St. Margaret's Bay in Halifax so will be close to the APPHON/ROHPPA offices.

She looks forward to working with everyone throughout the Maritimes involved in the care of children with hematologic/oncologic disorders.

Cathie's first priority, along with Stephanie Eason of NL, is to revitalize the nurses working group and update the

Levels of Care documents and Nursing Standards. Cathie can be reached at: Catherine.watson@iwk.nshealth.ca

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Website

The APPHON/ROHPPA website is now live at apphon-rohppa.com. It is a work in progress with only the guidelines on the website currently. Any suggestions please let me know. The French portion is in the process of getting translated and APPHON/ROHPPA will let you know when it is available.

Febrile Neutropenia Guideline Audit

APPHON/ROHPPA is currently undergoing an audit of all cases of febrile neutropenia in Atlantic Canada through a retrospective chart review. The goal is to look at the adherence to the guideline and to provide more education around areas where it is needed.

It is hoped that there will be a preliminary presentation of the results at the APPHON/ROHPPA conference.

APHON Chemotherapy/ Biotherapy Course

The next APHON Chemotherapy /Biotherapy Course will be held on October 14th and 15th of this year. Also, please let us know in advance if you wish to have a translator present.

If anyone wants to attend, please contact Kathy Webber at Katherine.webber@iwk.nshealth.ca.

If you have questions regarding course content, please contact Mary Jean at maryjean.howitt@iwk.nshealth.ca or by phone at (902)470-6369.

Asparaginase Guideline Change

The IWK hematology/oncology department has changed the preferred route of administration of PEG asparaginase to be given intravenously and not intramuscularly. This is based on information from the Children's Oncology Group (COG), showing at least equal efficacy of IV as compared with IM PEG asparaginase, with less patient discomfort with the IV route of administration. The IV route does have the potential for increased hypersensitivity reactions over the intramuscular route but not enough to limit its use.

The APPHON/IWK guidelines have been amended to include this change. The recommended infusion time is 2 hours and administered through the tubing of a freely infusing solution of D5W or 0.9%NaCl or in a standard bag of 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl.

If you have any questions about this practice change please contact Tamara MacDonald: tamara.macdonald@iwk.nshealth.ca

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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.