
200 Front Street West, Suite 2800
Toronto, ON M5V 3L1
Tel: 416 205 1300 Fax: 416 205 1360
www.oha.com

August 25, 2010

**For the Attention of
Hospital CEOs, OHA Board of Directors, Infection Prevention
and Control Leads, Occupational Health and Safety Leads,
Joint Health and Safety Committee, and Chief Nursing
Officers**

**From: Sudha Kutty
Director, Patient Safety, Physician and Professional Issues**

Important Update to Annexes to PIDAC Best Practices Documents

The Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has released an update for the *Annex A: Screening, Testing and Surveillance for Antibiotic-Resistant Organisms (AROs) in All Health Care Settings*. The changes reflect more current science and appropriate linkages to *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in all Health Care Settings*.

This update includes information on dealing with the newly reported Superbug NDM-1 or Resistant Gram-Negative Bacilli, which is timely given that Ontario has identified its first case of infection with bacteria containing the New Delhi metallo beta-lactamase (NDM-1) gene.

NDM-1 is an enzyme produced by some bacteria that renders all current beta lactam drugs used in clinical practice inactive. Annex A also provides guidance on critical infection prevention and control measures, such as the elements of an antimicrobial stewardship program, and the initiation and duration of additional precautions for management of patients with antibiotic resistant organisms. To access the updated Annex A, click [here](#).

To access the Ministry's Q&A document on NDM-1, click [here](#).

Two additional annexes have also been posted to replace existing stand alone documents. Annex B: *Best Practices for the Prevention of Transmission of Acute Respiratory Infection in all Health Care Settings*, replaces *Preventing Febrile Respiratory Illnesses: Protecting Patients and Staff*, and Annex C: *Testing, Surveillance and Management of Clostridium difficile in All Health Care Settings*, replaces *Best Practices for Management of Clostridium difficile in all Health Care Settings*.

To access these annexes of the PIDAC Best Practice Manuals and additional information about infection control, click [here](#).

For further information about these PIDAC updates or the Ministry's Q&A, please contact Joann Braithwaite, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at 416-327-0157 or joann.braithwaite@ontario.ca or Prasad Rawte, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion at 416-235-5703 or 416-235-5874.

For information related to Occupational Health and Safety please contact Tim Savage, Health and Safety Consultant at 416-205-1395 or tsavage@oha.com or for information about Infection Prevention and Control, please contact Karen Sequeira, Patient Safety Consultant at 416-205-1328 or ksequeira@oha.com.