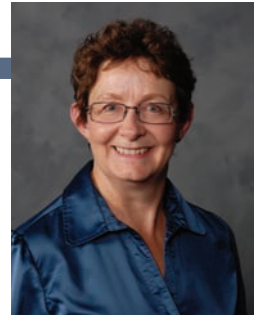


# INTRODUCTION TO CHICA-CANADA



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The Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA) – Canada is a national, multi-disciplinary, voluntary association uniting those with an interest in infection prevention in Canada. CHICA-Canada has over 1700 individual, institutional or corporate members in 22 chapters across the country, dedicated to the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control.

The provision of infection prevention and control services is, amid the increasing demand for scarce health care resources, rapidly evolving. Challenges to practice include decreased numbers of acute care inpatient beds and an increased demand for long-term care beds; expansion of home care services; increased patient acuity; and increased numbers of ambulatory procedures, same day surgeries and advanced diagnostic procedures. Protection of clients and employees has been impacted by global travel, bloodborne pathogens, the resurgence of tuberculosis, and the explosive increase in antimicrobial resistant organisms.

CHICA members work in a variety of healthcare settings including acute, long term, home care, public health, physician or dental offices, corrections facilities, and emergency services. CHICA and its local chapters provide support to its members in many ways:

- Initiating and developing effective communication between professionals (website, member & source guide, e-newsletters, chapter web pages, and special interest groups);
- Supporting the development of effective and rational practice (position statements, collaboration on national guidelines/standards);
- Encouraging standardization and critical evaluation of practice (audit toolkit, professional and practice standards, e-learning modules);
- Promoting research in practices and procedures (publisher of *Canadian Journal of Infection Control*);
- Promoting and facilitating education (national and chapter education conferences/ road-shows, endorsement & provision of basic infection prevention and control courses); and
- Promoting consumer awareness within the community (collaboration on national and global awareness campaigns).

CHICA collaborates with many national agencies on infection prevention initiatives such as STOP - Clean Your Hands Day, World Health Day and the Global Hand Hygiene Campaign. CHICA-Canada works closely with its corporate sponsors who provide support to members through scholarships and awards as well as directly supporting education events and the audit toolkit. CHICA works internationally with partner associations to support collaborative education efforts during International Infection Prevention Week and promotes the international advancement of infection prevention and control professionals through recognition and certification.

This year CHICA-Canada and ORNAC are forging a stronger relationship. Both organizations are patient safety proponents and the two groups have much to share at conferences, in journals and at the point of care.

For more information about CHICA-Canada visit [www.CHICA.org](http://www.CHICA.org).

