



international federation of infection control

News from the Safe Childbirth Interest Group July 2010

The Safe Childbirth Interest Group (SIG) invites infection control preventionists to join worldwide effort to address Millennium Develop Goals 4 and 5: Reduce Child Mortality and Improve Maternal Health

- **IPCAN –IFIC Conference in Cape Town Special Session on Safe Childbirth!**
- **Covidien Project Making Safe Childbirth a Reality grant proposal competition deadline extended to September 30, 2010.**
- **Request for Help.**
- **Projects with partner organizations to develop course material and present trainings with partner societies**
- **Brief news updates – and please send in your news and comments to marycatlin@hotmail.com**

IPCAN –IFIC Conference in Cape Town August 29 to September 1st Special Session on Safe Childbirth!

Thanks to support from Covidien and IFIC, IPCAN will feature a special session *Safe Childbirth: the Role of Infection Prevention*. The session features physician Joy Lawn of Save the Children who will speak on “Reducing Neonatal Deaths in Africa: Challenges and Priorities.” Natasha Rhoda, Senior Neonatal Consultant for Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town will report on work to improve perinatal care in Africa, Mary Catlin will represent the Special Interest Group speaking on concrete steps that Infection Control Preventionists can take to make motherhood safer.

IFIC-Covidien Making Safe Childbirth a Reality grant proposal competition: deadline extended to September 30, 2010.

Help! Are you aware of promising work underway to help prevent healthcare associated infections in perinatal settings that could benefit from a small grants program? We need help getting the word out to those who could benefit. Please contact persons you know working in settings with high rates of maternal and neonatal deaths. Help them to develop a realistic, SIMPLE idea to institute infection control measures of proven efficacy. Then help them complete the one page application form on the IFIC website and send it into IFIC. We have received some applications, but are awaiting small realistic projects on infection control.

Request for Help

A Sudanese hospital in Khartoum is requesting help to end an outbreak of neonatal sepsis of unknown etiology in their NICU. They have e-mail contact, and recently completed a course on basic infection control. However the topics didn't include outbreak investigation. If you or your organization is interested in volunteering assistance, I will be happy to put you in contact with them. Staff speak Arabic and English. My contact information is marycatlin@hotmail.com

Projects with partner organizations

Egypt's active Infection Control Preventionists from the MOH, CDC, NAMRU-3 and WHO collaborated with hospital staff to help improve access to hospital care for HIV



positive patients. They designed a 4 day course to help workers overcome their fears about working with HIV+ patients and also to improve the quality of infection control. They also sponsored a 5 day course in basic infection control for key hospitals and infection control staff from the ministries of health in Yemen, Libya, Sudan, and Jordan. I was lucky enough to help them develop the materials and present the courses, which gave me the opportunity to develop a module about infection control in perinatal services, and to test a case study of blood borne pathogens in childbirth. As this was one of the SIG stated goals, and I invite volunteers to help improve it further. Anyone interested?

Developing infection control material appropriate for Safe Motherhood

IFIC members, Michael Borg, Shaheen Mehtar, Nizam Damani, and Mary Catlin collaborated with WHO to produce WHO Guidelines on Drawing Blood: Best practices in Phlebotomy. The document is available at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241599221_eng.pdf

Brief news updates:

- **Congratulations to Norway!** Save the Children's annual State of the World's Mothers report ranked Norway as the best place in the world for safe motherhood. Cuba leads the middle income countries. See where your country ranks at <http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/state-of-the-worlds-mothers-report/>
- **Looking for a simple intervention to reduce postoperative endometritis?** Read what the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group says about use of Povidone-iodine as a "Vaginal preparation with antiseptic solution before Caesarean section for preventing postoperative infections." www.cochrane.org/reviews/en/ab007892.html
- **U.S. maternal mortality has doubled in the past twenty years reaching 13.6/ per 100,000. Great Britain now has fewer than 4 deaths per 100,000.** Read the article at <http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/03/12/maternal.mortality/index.html>
- **Bookmark this website:** <http://www.who.int/pmnch/en/>. The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child health unites information from 300 organizations working to improve maternal and newborn health. They include WHO, the World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation who recently announced that they will commit 1.5 Billion US dollars to this need.

Please send your news, updates and ideas – and thanks for your work. Mary Catlin, SIG Safe Childbirth Chair, marycatlin@hotmail.com