

Infection Prevention Control Lapses – Public Reporting

Attention: Physicians and Surgeons, Long-Term Care Facilities, Rest & Retirement Homes, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Occupational Health Professionals, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services, Medavie EMS Ontario – Muskoka, Rama Mnjikaning EMS, Dentists, Midwives

Date: February 4, 2016

In October of 2015 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) released updates to the provincial guidelines entitled *Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), 2015*. The standards include the revised *Infection Prevention and Control Practices Complaint Protocol, 2015*. The protocol was revised to increase transparency and accountability through improved reporting capabilities.

The revised protocol requires SMDHU to disclose all infection prevention and control (IPAC) lapses that have been identified through complaints, referrals, or communicable disease surveillance in the following settings:

- Personal service settings
- Settings not routinely inspected by the health unit
- Settings in which the lapse is linked to the conduct of a regulated health professional.

An IPAC lapse is defined as a deviation from the IPAC standards of care. The standards are based on current IPAC documents from the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC), Public Health Ontario (PHO), or the MOHLTC. Deviation from the IPAC standard(s) in question may result in infectious disease transmission to clients, attendees or staff through exposure to blood, body fluids and/or potentially infectious lesions. Examples of an IPAC lapse may include the inappropriate use of equipment such as multi-dose vials and syringes or improper cleaning and reprocessing of equipment.

IPAC lapse disclosure consists of posting summary investigation reports to the health unit website within specific timeframes during the investigation and at its completion. As a result the public will now have timely access to useful information and it will encourage service providers to ensure services are provided in a safe manner. In the past, all complaint investigation findings were available to the public only through a formal request process.

To meet the requirements outlined by the MOHLTC, SMDHU will be implementing the above processes into our standard practices moving forward. We have implemented an IPAC lapse investigation reports page on our website for posting summary reports. The reports posted online will be specific to complaint investigations that confirmed the existence of an IPAC lapse which poses a risk of disease transmission to clients and staff. The IPAC lapse investigation report site is available on the health unit website at www.smdhu.org/ipacreports.

Thank you for your co-operation and support for the work that we do to ensure safe services in our communities.

For more information please call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8809 to speak to a member of the Communicable Disease Team.