

June 4, 2013

Dr. Virginia R. Roth
Director, Physician Leadership Development and Physician Engagement
Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control Program
The Ottawa Hospital

Dear Dr. Roth;

I am writing in follow-up to the visit to The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) by our Infection Control Resource Team (ICRT) on September 27, 2012.

Since the visit by the ICRT, TOH has consistently worked to address the recommendations made by the team. The hospital has either implemented all recommendations or is in the process of implementing the plan for those that were longer term in nature. We commend the work that has been done by TOH and their commitment to providing a safe environment for their patients.

TOH has also worked with the Public Health Ontario Laboratory to genetically type the strains of *Clostridium difficile* that were identified at TOH. The results of this typing indicate that the majority of strains are not related. This shows that patient to patient transmission was not a factor in the cases of *Clostridium difficile* infection at TOH. The Infection Prevention and Control program continues to work to reduce the risk of patients acquiring *Clostridium difficile* during their hospitalization and is making good progress as demonstrated by the improved CDI patient safety indicators.

The work done by TOH in response to the recommendations has contributed to information on *Clostridium difficile* infection and control of this organism within the health care setting. There is much that is still unknown about this organism and Public Health Ontario commends the work that TOH has done to ensure patient safety and identify risks to patients who are cared for in their facilities. We look forward to continuing to work with the Infection Prevention and Control team at TOH in projects that advance the knowledge of IPAC and improve patient safety and quality.

Yours truly



Gary Garber MD FRCPC FACP FIDSA
Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control
Public Health Ontario