

APIC news

Annual Meeting December 7, 2011



It's the end of the year as we know it (and I feel fine)

First, let me take a moment to apologize for not sending a more formal newsletter in quite some time. It seemed once National came, time sped up and suddenly there's a turkey thawing in my sink.

Thanks to all who attended the conference in October at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville. We had a great turnout and I hope that if you were able to attend you walked away with new information and new insight. Next year, the conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Conference Center in Springfield October 25 and 26. So mark your calendars now! There's a bigger and better long-term care conference in the works, scheduled for early spring in the Chicago area. Count on more information in the coming weeks. We've also got our chapter all day coming up too. Keep looking at www.apicchicago.org for more information for all of these upcoming educational opportunities.

Speaking of the website, significant changes are in the works. We keep a lot of information on our site, and I hope you find it useful. But as we have continued to add materials (handouts for example), it gets bogged down and a little cluttered. So, over the next month, we'll be restructuring the site to make it more user-friendly. If there are things you think it needs that isn't accurately reflected (or maybe just too hard to find) email your suggestions to me at mwright@northshore.org.

Have you yet voted?

The election for our chapter board members is held this month. Voting is only held online and you must have your APIC member ID to vote. You must have cast your ballot no later than 11/30/2011 at noon.

Please vote at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/APICChicagoBallot>



Our Annual Business Meeting for chapter members is December 7, 2011 at Maggiano's at the Oakbrook Shopping Mall. Your registration must be received no later than 11/30/2011 at noon. The easiest way to do this is of course, online through the PayPal option on our chapter website at www.apicchicago.org



I just enjoyed a Joint Commission visit last week. They surveyed all 4 hospitals, the Medical Group of physician offices and service centers (~100), Home Health and Hospice all at once. 12 surveyors and 5 days. They were very thorough and were particularly interested in some of the areas I highlight below

1. They were interested in how we handle and store our laryngoscope blades in both our crash carts and OR/anesthesia carts.
2. They loved looking at our high-level liquid disinfectant logs and test strips and making sure we were following directions to the letter on both. For example, did we QC check the test strips?
3. They paid attention to refrigerator monitoring logs and making sure out of range temperatures had appropriate documentation for reconciliation.
4. They were vigilant in and around clinical areas where construction activity was ongoing and were looking at both barriers and cleanliness as well as our ICRA.
5. If you perform flash sterilization near your OR, they want the flashed items covered during transport to the OR; regardless of traffic patterns in the area (restricted or semi-restricted).
6. They were focused on our risk assessment and plan and how we decide which ones are prioritized and what we're doing to address these priority areas.
7. They were very interested in transitions between care levels and how IC issues are communicated.
8. They examined directional airflow between clean and dirty areas of sterile processing.

You can expect one more newsletter from me by the end of the year as we welcome Carol in as President for 2012.

*Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours,
Marc*

Did you know?

If you're not receiving emails or newsletters routinely, it may be because your email address on file at National isn't accurate. You are responsible for maintaining updated contact information with National in order to receive Chapter Updates and Newsletters. If you're unsure, take a moment, log in to MyAPIC and review your contact information, especially your email address.