

October 1, 2005

Dear Fellow Infection Control Professional;

Infections in hospitals and long-term care facilities (LTCFs) result in considerable morbidity, mortality, and financial expense. My research team conducted the only comprehensive survey of infection control in acute care hospitals in Canada. There has never been a rigorous examination of infection control in LTCFs in Canada. To rectify this we are conducting a Canada wide survey of infection control in LTCFs. The results of this survey will be used to promote infection control programs in LTCFs.

The survey that accompanies this letter is to be completed by the staff member most responsible for the infection control program in your institution. When the survey is completed, please mail it back to us in the included business reply envelope that does not need postage.

Participation in this study is voluntary. Respondents and LTCFs will never be identified in presentations of the results. The researchers will not divulge respondent and LTCF identities to any third party whatsoever. The study was reviewed and approved by Dr. Albert Clark, Chair of the Queen's University Research Ethics Board – (613) 533-6081.

I would like to thank-you in advance for taking the time to answer this important survey. All participants will be sent an executive summary of this study.

Sincerely,

Dick E. Zoutman, MD, FRCPC
Medical Director of Infection Control Services
Kingston General Hospital
613-549-6666 X 4015
zoutmand@kgh.kari.net