Infection Prevention and Control Physician Lead

Posting Date: May 25, 2021

Position profile: The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) invites qualified physicians to apply for the position of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Physician Lead. The successful applicant will join the clinical Department of Medicine and will work collaboratively with a multidisciplinary team providing IPAC services throughout Saskatchewan.

Infection Prevention and Control emphasizes prevention, and deals clinically and administratively with the health needs of both individuals and groups with respect to their working environments and includes the recognition, evaluation, control, and management of healthcare-associated infections. The IPAC Physician Lead will build strong relationships with key partners and will promote, implement and support Infection Prevention and Control best practices throughout the SHA. Responsibilities of the IPAC Physician lead include providing consultation, recommendations and clinical assistance to Infection Prevention and Control staff and administrative leadership in relation to monitoring and surveillance and outbreak management and will provide guidance and leadership in the development, implementation and management of IPAC policies and procedures. The IPAC Physician Lead will have additional training or experience and responsibilities at the provincial level, to provide expertise and assist in the development of provincial policy, programs and protocols.

Term: Temporary Full Time up to March 31, 2022
Compensation details: competitive remuneration
Location of practice: Saskatchewan (community TBD)

Specific Accountabilities:

IPAC specialists work in a defined physician partnership relationship with administrative leadership (Director, IPAC) to ensure medical leadership, direction, and the establishment and management of policies, frameworks and service delivery models for planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluation and quality improvement for public health programs and services. Through shared accountabilities for co-leadership, they build and maintain a highly skilled, engaged IPAC professional staff.

As the IPAC Physician Lead, the successful candidate will:

- Provide consultation, recommendations and clinical assistance to Infection Control Practitioners (ICPs), staff and administrative leadership related to IPAC issues including surveillance activities, outbreak management, antimicrobial stewardship, immunization issues and others as needed.

- Address COVID-19 questions, matrix decisions and outbreak issues brought forward by IPAC clinical physician supports and/or IPAC teams.

- Co-chair the Provincial IPAC Steering Committee (with Director, IPAC).

- Work with a network of IPAC teams to develop enhancements and implementation of practices, policies and procedures that improve patient and staff health and safety within the SHA. Provide guidance and leadership in the development, implementation and management of IPAC policies and procedures; and ensure they are reviewed and updated in accordance with current evidence-based practices.
- Support the IPAC department in achieving and maintaining accreditation readiness.
- Collaborate with SHA Provincial Heads and Senior Medical Health Officer (MHO) department, Area Department Leads and Area Chiefs of Staff to ensure their understanding and application of IPAC guidelines within the health/medical system.
- Consult and coordinate with Senior MHO department and MHO regarding investigation and management of notifiable diseases and outbreaks.
- Ensure that patient and staff health and safety initiatives are integrated and implemented by physicians.
- Provide consultation, clinical assessments and professional recommendations to clients, staff and administrators of IPAC programs and services; physicians in all specialties working across the health care system; government at local, provincial and federal levels.
- Collaborate with ancillary support services in adherence to international standards to plan a safe, clean and secure environment for patients, staff and visitors.
- Build and maintain provincial- and Area-level cross-sector and cross-organization partnerships and strategy for IPAC, and actively participate in committees, task groups and working groups, as assigned.
- Advocate with or on behalf of clients, communities and/or populations for building healthy public policy, creating supportive environments, and strengthening community action to improve infection prevention and control.
- Communicate with media, or in public venues where media may be present, regarding issues pertaining to Infection Prevention and Control.

This position has a dual role that will strive to ensure operational excellence in managing infection prevention and control and in developing strategy that will position the SHA to become a leader in staff, physicians and patient safety in the health industry.

**Qualifications/Requirements of the position:** Candidates must hold certification or be eligible for certification with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and be eligible for licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS). Preference will be given to candidates who hold certification in Infectious Diseases, Occupational Medicine, Public Health and Preventive Medicine or Medical Microbiology.

**Additional Training and Experience:**
- Canadian Certified Physician Executive Credential would be an asset
- Advanced education in Health Care Administration, Public Administration and/or Leadership Studies would be an asset
- Participation in the Canadian Medical Association’s Physician Leadership Institute would be an asset
- Additional training and/or education in leadership/management would be an asset
- Experience, at an operational level, as a medical leader who has developed and led innovative planning and programs in a complex, multi-stakeholder environment
- Has knowledge of and experience in guiding health quality improvement processes and initiatives
- Has experience working in co-leadership (dyad leadership) roles and relationships
- Valid Class 5 driver’s license
Job Context

The Saskatchewan Health Authority is the largest organization in Saskatchewan, employing over 44,000 employees and physicians responsible for the delivery of high quality and timely health care for the entire province. We are driven by the commitment to improve front line patient care for Saskatchewan people, and we are working together to better coordinate health services across the province to ensure that patients receive high quality, timely health care, wherever they live in Saskatchewan.

The SHA infrastructure and services consist of:
- 64 hospitals with 2,500 acute care patient beds
- Approximately 9,000 long term care beds
- Provincially coordinated quality, patient-centred care services, such as Acute hospital-based care, Long Term Care, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Primary Health Care, Public Health and many other community-based clinical programs designed to promote and maintain health of the population

To Apply: SHA supports a shared commitment to a Representative Workforce that is respectful and inclusive of all staff and clients and welcomes applications from those who will contribute to the diversity of our community. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.

Interested candidates, please submit your curriculum vitae in confidence to:

Jennifer Grunert, Physician Recruitment Coordinator
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