

Regional “STI Update” Videoconferencing: Extending Our Reach

Tracey McClelland, RN, BScN
Algoma Public Health

In the Beginning.....

- Release of the 2006 Edition of the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Release of report: “Infectious Diseases in Algoma 1995 – 2004”
- Ongoing Challenges of Professional Education in Rural/Remote Areas

How We Got Started

- Formed planning committee
- Partnership with GlaxoSmithKline and Merck Frosst pharmaceuticals
- Investigated possibilities for video conferencing
- Engaged the Public Health division of the MOHLTC in our “vision”

What We Hoped To Accomplish

1. Provide accessible, up to date, evidence based practice information to health care providers in the North
2. Promote communication with local community partners for enhanced STI management
3. Enhance collaboration among northern health units for educational efficiencies



Who We Reached

- **In 2006** - 150 public health nurses, nurse practitioners, and community physicians in 15 sites
- **In 2007** - 174 public health nurses, nurse practitioners and community physicians in 25 sites
- **Increase** of 25 people and 10 sites



Benefits

- Evidence based practice
- Current and pertinent information
- Minimal travel for participants and presenters
- Presenters did not have to be at same site
- Cost effective continuing education
- Interactive participation between the presenter and participants
- Networking opportunities

Challenges

- Site co-ordination
- Ensuring adequate IT support at the host site
- Technology glitches
- Marketing the event

Lessons Learned

- Shortened Conference from 1.5 days to 1
- Sharing the leadership role
- Technology parameters: 25 sites is best for Q&A
- Videotaping was problematic in 2007
- Time required for site co-ordination

Plans for the Future

- MOHLTC Update
- Best Practices in Clinical Management
- Complex HIV case management
- Electronic client records in Sexual Health Clinics
 - Lessons from the Field

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