

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Specialist Link goes from strength to strength

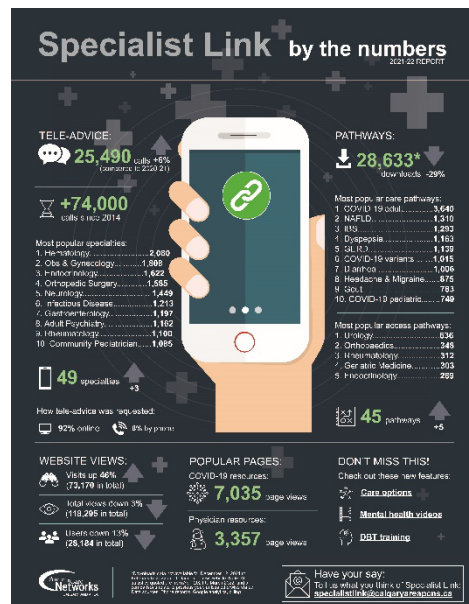
The continued growth of Specialist Link, which includes tele-advice, pathways and other resources for primary care providers, is highlighted in the latest “by the numbers” annual report infographic.

The report, pictured right (or [click here to download](#)), shows more than 25,000 tele-advice calls – in which family physicians were connected with specialists in real time – were completed from April 2021 to March 2022, a small increase compared to the previous year. Hematology was the most popular of 49 services, followed by obstetrics and gynecology and endocrinology.

Tele-advice can be requested online at specialistlink.ca or by calling 403-910-2551. About 92 per cent of users request tele-advice online.

The website has also become a hub for pathways. More than 28,000 clinical care and access pathway downloads were reported in 2021-22, a decrease compared to the previous year, due mainly to the huge number of COVID-19 pathway downloads at the start of the pandemic and missing data due to a website relaunch. The COVID-19 pathway, which was developed in the Calgary Zone and scaled provincially, was again the most downloaded pathway last year, followed by Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) and IBS.

Overall, website visits rose by 46 per cent to 73,170. If you have a comment about Specialist Link, please email the team at specialistlink@calgaryareapcns.ca.



Calgary Zone webinar

Six real life Paxlovid prescribing case-studies will be featured in the upcoming Calgary Zone COVID-19 and mental health webinar on Monday, May 30.

The virtual event, which is scheduled from 6-8 p.m., will be hosted by Dr. Christine Luelo and Dr. Rick Ward and will feature physicians from the outpatient treatment program.

In addition to the focus on COVID-19 oral treatments, the mental health moment will include a discussion about caring for patients with anxiety in the medical home. Dr. Rachel Han and Dr. Margie Oakander will introduce the new Calgary Zone anxiety pathway.

*Please note: Game 7 of the Stanley Cup playoffs between Edmonton and Calgary is currently scheduled to take place at the same time as the webinar. If Game 7 is required, the webinar will likely be postponed.

[Register](#).

Paxlovid prescribing guide

A [step-by-step prescribing guide](#) is among the latest additions to the resources available to primary care providers who are interested in prescribing Paxlovid.

Developed by the Alberta College of Family Physicians, it outlines prescribing steps and resources. Other helpful tools include:

- [Eligibility criteria](#) for Paxlovid and Remdesivir
- [Rapid Antigen Test Requisition](#)
- [Pharmacy map](#)
- [Provider FAQ](#)

A reminder that in a small number of cases, patients have developed a relapse of COVID-19 symptoms within a few days of completing a course of treatment. This can be accompanied by a new positive test, after testing negative. It is not recommended that treatment is extended or repeated.

Paxlovid should not be considered as a treatment option for patients experiencing symptoms of Long COVID, while transplant patients should not be given Paxlovid due to the potential for life-threatening drug interactions. Transplant patients should be referred to the outpatient COVID-19 treatment program at 1-844-343-0971, or the patient's specialist.

Connect Care update

The Connect Care rollout is coming to selected sites in the Calgary area later this month.

Rural acute and long-term care and urgent care in Airdrie, Okotoks, Cochrane and at Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre and South Calgary Health Centre are among the local sites due to be involved in the Saturday, May 28 launch. Alberta Children's Hospital, Peter Lougheed Centre, and some lab and pharmacy sites are also part of the next phase of the rollout. [Connect Care timeline](#).

To help community providers prepare for the launch, AHS has prepared a memo on [using Connect Care Identifiers](#). There is also a [clinical documentation FAQ](#).

Notifications are set to be automatically sent to primary care providers from Connect Care, via eDelivery, upon patient registration or admission. The notifications would arrive via conformed EMRs. Notifications sent to family physicians via the Calgary Zone's enhanced hospital discharge program will continue for the sites not coming online on May 28.

Foothills Medical Centre is scheduled to be part of the November launch, while Rockyview General Hospital and South Health Campus are set to be added in the spring of 2023.

Refugee webinar with Dr. Coakley

On Wednesday, June 8, from 7–8 p.m., Dr. Annalee Coakley from the Mosaic PCN Refugee Health Clinic will host a Continuing Medical Education event on refugee health. The free, virtual event will address billing and coverage, interpretation supports and other community resources.

With the Calgary area acting as one of two main hubs for Afghan refugees arriving in Canada, this free virtual event will provide an overview of refugee classification and corresponding program eligibility.

To register, email cme@mosaicpcn.ca, including your full name and PCN affiliation. A webinar link will be emailed a few days prior to the event.

[More details.](#)

A reminder that physicians are needed to help support the health needs of Afghan refugees who are arriving in the Calgary area. If you're interested in learning more about how to help, Mosaic PCN has developed an [information sign-up page](#).

Quick links

AMA privacy webinar training

On Tuesday, May 31, the Alberta Medical Association is offering free privacy training for physicians, privacy officers and clinic staff. Learn about new tools and resources and pose questions to a privacy officer. Two sessions are available: [12–1 p.m.](#) and [5:30–6:30 p.m.](#) [More information.](#)

Panel discussion: The Meaning of Empathy

On Wednesday, June 8, from 7–8:30 p.m., the Alberta College of Family Physicians is hosting a panel discussion about the award-winning film *Kimmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy*. It follows filmmaker Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, who describes the change brought by community members, first responders and medical professionals as they strive for harm reduction in the Kainai First Nation. The film is available online starting Friday, June 3. [Register.](#)

Reminder: Calgary Zone webinar

As mentioned above, on Monday, May 30, from 6–8 p.m., the next webinar in the Calgary Zone's COVID-19 and mental health series is due to take place. [Register.](#)