

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Physician engagement in primary care

Primary Care Alberta's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has outlined plans for physician engagement in primary care as part of health system refocusing.

In his column, Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein shares details about the Chief Medical Officer Integration Committee, which includes representatives from PCA, Recovery Alberta, Acute Care Alberta and Assisted Living Alberta, as well as the new PCA Physician Advisory Group. In addition, there are plans to incorporate meaningful physician engagement across organizations, disciplines and communities to guide PCA and the broader health system. [Read the column.](#)

Next chapter: Read the CMO's column about [immunization](#).

Measles: There have been several measles exposures in the Calgary Zone in the past month, including reports linked to Calgary International Airport and Rockyview General Hospital. [Click here](#) for the latest Calgary Zone advisories. [Measles cases](#).

MSF360 program

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) is bringing back the MCC 360 program under a new name – MSF360.

MSF360 offers physicians an opportunity to evaluate their practice through self-assessment while reflecting on anonymized feedback gathered from patients, colleagues and co-workers. It meets the requirements for the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PIIP). CPSA is covering the cost of the program for physicians who voluntarily sign up for MSF360 to improve their practice. Please contact ppip@cpsa.ab.ca to ensure no fee is charged. [More information](#).

rTMS outpatient treatment

Outpatient clinic information for Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) treatment in the Calgary Zone has been updated.

rTMS treatment, a therapeutic medical procedure approved by Health Canada for the treatment of psychiatric disorders, such as major depression, is provided on an outpatient basis at

Rockyview General Hospital and Foothills Medical Centre. Additions have been made to the exclusion criteria.

Patients taking Benzodiazepines or those taking sleep medications (Zopiclone, Zolpidem) may need to discontinue for at least six weeks prior to initiation of rTMS treatment. Referrals can continue to be faxed to the Rockyview Clinic but are now also accepted via the Connect Care rTMS CAT department. [More information](#).

COVID-19 vaccine availability

Eligible Albertans can now receive an additional COVID-19 immunization at no cost through participating local pharmacies and Primary Care Alberta public health clinics.

In line with recommendations from Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the following groups are eligible to receive an additional immunization at no cost:

- Adults 80 years of age and older
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors
- Individuals six months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised due to an underlying condition or treatment
- Adults 65 to 79 years of age with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19

A minimum interval of at least three months between COVID-19 immunizations is recommended. [More information](#).

HPV screening pathway

All immunocompromised patients with any high-risk HPV detected result are to be referred directly to colposcopy, regardless of reflex cytology findings.

This change reflects the higher risk of persistent HPV infection and faster progression to cervical disease in immunocompromised individuals. [More information](#). Additional clinical resources are available in the health providers section on screeningforlife.ca.

Lab bulletins

Lipoprotein routing change

Lipoprotein (a) [Lp(a)] is temporarily unavailable at the Diagnostic Scientific Centre (DSC) community chemistry hub laboratory in Calgary. All Lp(a) orders will be routed to the University of Alberta Hospital laboratory in Edmonton. [Read the lab memo](#).

Serum muscle-specific kinase antibody testing

All testing for serum muscle specific kinase antibody will now be performed at the University of Alberta Hospital lab using a fixed cell-based assay (F-CBA) method. [Read the lab memo.](#)

Gynecology cytology order

A change has been made to the gynecological cytology order in Connect Care using rules to automatically determine the patient's eligibility for gynecological cytology or HPV primary testing as their cervical cancer screening test. [Read the lab memo.](#)

Quick links

Choosing Wisely: False health information

On Wednesday, April 22, at 10 a.m., Choosing Wisely Talks will host a session on combatting false health information. It features Canadian Medical Association president-elect Dr. Bolu Ogunyemi and Calgary Foothills PCN Medical Director Dr. Janet Reynolds. [Register.](#)

Ovarian cancer prevention

On Thursday, April 23, from noon–1 p.m., the AMA's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT) is hosting a webinar on *The Role of Primary Care in Ovarian Cancer Prevention*. [Register.](#)

Diabetes workshops for health professionals

On Wednesday, April 22, and Wednesday, May 6, from 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m., diabetes workshops are being offered by the Diabetes Centre Calgary, Endocrinology and Metabolism Program. [More information.](#)

Reminder: Caregiver-centered care

On Tuesday, April 28, from 6–7 p.m., ACTT is hosting the latest webinar in the PPIP series on caregiver-centered care. Dr. Vivian Ewa and Dr. Elaine Bland are leading the session, which focuses on strategies to engage, partner with and support family caregivers. Prerequisites include three 20-minute, online, self-paced modules. [Register.](#)

Breast cancer screening guidelines

On Wednesday, April 29, from 6:30–8:30 p.m., the Alberta Society of Radiologists is hosting a webinar on the application of Clinical Practice Guidelines for breast cancer screening. [Register.](#)

Chronic disease and the patient experience

On Friday, May 1, from 8:30 a.m.–noon, PCA is hosting a workshop on improving the patient experience in chronic disease management. A self-paced online module must be completed before attending the live session. Please email CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca.

RhPAP conference

On Tuesday, October 6 to Thursday, October 8, the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) conference will be held in Peace River. [More information.](#)

Three-hour pilot on misinformation

On Thursday, June 25, from 11:30 a.m.–2:45 p.m., the Canadian Medical Association invites physicians and health-care leaders to take part in a pilot of the new three-hour *From Distrust to Dialogue: How to reclaim the narrative against misinformation* course as well as a 60-minute virtual call to provide feedback. There is no cost. Please email cher.manley@cma.ca.

Netcare newsletter

Updates on the eHealth Services Portal are among the featured topics in the March edition of the Netcare newsletter. [Read the newsletter](#).