

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



New payment model framework

Elements of a new [physician compensation model framework](#) were released by the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Medical Association earlier this week. The framework, which will now be subject to rate review recommendations, is expected to be finalized in the fall.

Discussions are ongoing about a minimum panel size to be eligible for the new model. Participants would be required to sign an agreement to provide comprehensive care, with a certain number of hours of service, providing most services in person, and commit to joining the Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR). [Watch the announcement](#).

Transitional funding support: The AMA began distributing transitional funding support payments to eligible physicians earlier this month. Visit the [Transitional Funding Program](#) page for more information or email programpayments@albertadoctors.org.

MAPS implementation plan

The Government of Alberta unveiled a two-year [implementation plan](#) for [Modernizing Alberta's Health Care System](#) (MAPS) on Thursday evening.

The report provides a high level overview of the steps that will be taken to act on the recommendations contained in advisory panel final reports, which were released last year. Key areas of focus are as follows:

- 1. Transforming governance, strengthening and aligning accountabilities:**
 - The new Primary Care Organization will be established by December 2024.
 - Policy to determine the size, location and services offered by Regional Primary Health Care Networks will be established around the same time. A plan for transitioning PCNs into regional networks will be completed by March 2025.
 - The Provincial Primary Care Network Committee, now called the Primary Health Care Advisory Committee, will focus on MAPS implementation. Working groups will be formed and Zone PCN Committees will continue to advance zonal initiatives.
- 2. Evolving patients' medical homes within an integrated health neighbourhood (IHN):** Plans to establish IHNs will be completed by June 2025.
- 3. Enabling the primary health care workforce to improve health outcomes:**

- International medical graduate expansion by September 2024.
 - Undergraduate and residency programs will expand available slots this fall.
 - A physician assistant program will be created by December 2024.
 - A feasibility assessment of recommendations from the Decreasing Administrative Burden report will be completed by September 2024.
- 4. Building capacity in quality, safety, and innovation:** Highlights include a primary health care innovation fund to facilitate improvement in the Patient's Medical Home and a patient and provider feedback platform.
 - 5. Digitally enabling primary health care:** Highlights include upgrading and expanding [Alberta Find a Doctor](#), planning for an EMR program and electronic lab ordering (starting in the current quarter), and optimizing electronic delivery of test results and hospital reports from Connect Care, starting in the fall/winter of 2024.
 - 6. Significantly investing in primary health care:** Final recommendations on a new compensation model, which is expected to be finalized in the fall, and panel support payments, are among the highlights.

A seventh area of focus, addressing Indigenous racism, will be detailed in a separate report. Read the [implementation plan](#).

Webinar: Crucial conversations

[Crucial conversations](#) about obesity, death and dying will be the focus of next week's Calgary Zone webinar.

On Monday, April 22, from 6–8 p.m., co-hosts Dr. Christine Luelo and Dr. Rick Ward return to tackle some difficult discussions.

Guest speaker Dr. David Lau will present on obesity, while Dr. Jilian Arnold will discuss Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). [Register](#).

Reminder: Measles update

Physicians are being warned about potential measles cases due to travel.

Although no cases have been confirmed in Alberta, AHS is advising those with symptoms to stay at home, avoid contact with others and call 811 before visiting health facilities.

Symptoms include a fever of 38.3 C or higher, a cough, runny nose, or red eyes, and a red, blotchy rash appearing three to seven days after fever starts, beginning behind the ears and on the face and spreading down to the body and then to the arms and legs. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

Specialist Link Prac ID update

As of Monday, April 22, physicians who request tele-advice via specialistlink.ca will now see the full name and prac (practice) ID of the specialist within the call request confirmation box. This update aims to help simplify charting and billing procedures.

Service interruption: Endocrine surgery tele-advice will be closed until Friday May 3, returning to service on Monday, May 6. It will be closed again, from Monday, May 20 to Wednesday May 22. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Quick links

Charting series

On Thursday, May 2, from 8–9:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting the first of a three-part series on charting. It is designed to support members from all PCNs to meet the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta’s Physician Practice Improvement Program Activity 2 Standard of Practice requirements. Part two is on Saturday, May 11, from 8–10 a.m. Part three is on Thursday, May 16, from 8–9:30 p.m. [More details.](#)

COVID-19 update

Eligible Albertans at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 can now choose to receive an additional dose of the vaccine targeting the XBB variant. That includes those aged 65 and older, individuals aged six months and older with certain immunocompromising conditions and First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals aged six months and older. [More information.](#)

Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease webinar

On Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m., the University of Calgary’s Cumming School of Medicine will host a webinar that reviews current dyslipidemia guidelines and explores complex, challenging cases experienced by primary care providers in the context of cardiovascular disease risk reduction. [Register.](#)

eReferral upgrade, training

With Netcare eReferral due for a significant upgrade this spring, online training is now available on Tuesdays from noon–1 p.m. [Register.](#)

Conference on integrated care

On Tuesday, October 15 to Thursday, October 17, the International Foundation of Integrated Care will host the *North American Conference on Integrated Care 2024* at the Westin Calgary. [More details.](#)