

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Dr. Greyvenstein appointed Chief Medical Officer

Former Calgary Zone physician lead, Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care Alberta. He started the role on Tuesday, April 1.

Dr. Greyvenstein, who also served as board chair for South Calgary PCN, most recently worked as medical director for the Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change and Transformation Team (ACTT).

In his new role, Dr. Greyvenstein is set to oversee matters related to medical staff, develop and implement medical policies and protocols and foster collaboration with primary care providers.

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## Vascular surgery referrals

Effective Tuesday, April 1, Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) is no longer accepting referrals for vascular surgery in the Calgary Zone.

Referring providers are asked to revert to their original process of sending referrals directly to the Peter Lougheed Centre outpatient clinic (phone 403-943-6400 and fax 403-291-2734). Any referrals sent to FAST will be forwarded to the PLC clinic; referrals sent prior to April 1 will be processed as usual.

[Specialist Link](#) tele-advice continues to be available. Providers can also refer to the [lower limb ischemia](#) and adult [vascular surgery referral](#) pathways.

**Have your say:** Take part in the FAST program evaluation [here](#). It closes Sunday, April 13.

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## Pathway updates

An updated version of the Calgary Zone respirology access pathway has been added to Specialist Link.

The new version updates contact and triage details, as well as Connect Care information. [Download the pathway](#).

The following provincial pathways have also been added to Specialist Link:

- Gastroenterology: [Pediatric abdominal pain](#)

- [Measles pathway](#)
  - Orthopedics: [Shoulder](#) | [Hand and wrist soft tissue mass](#) | [Carpal tunnel syndrome](#)
  - Urology: [Bladder cancer diagnosis](#) | [Renal mass diagnosis](#) | [Hematuria evaluation](#)
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## Measles resources

Resources are available to support clinics and providers following the confirmation of measles cases in Alberta, including several in the Calgary area.

Symptomatic patients should continue to call Health Link at 811 before visiting any health-care facility. A list of recent exposure locations and dates, including cases in Airdrie and Balzac, can be [found here](#).

Suspected cases should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health on-call (403-264-5615). Clinics should check immunization records and monitor for symptoms, which include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and rash. More information about [symptoms](#).

Other resources for clinics and providers include the following:

- Provincial [measles primary care pathway](#)
- [Summary guide](#)
- Environmental [cleaning in clinics](#)
- [Patient posters](#)

The measles vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection and complications. People born in or since 1970 who have received fewer than two doses of measles-containing vaccine are susceptible to infection. Those who have received fewer than two doses of measles-containing vaccine and are pregnant, under one year of age, are adults and/or have a weakened immune system are at most risk of complications from measles, should contact Health Link at 811.

For pediatric patients, families can text “vaccine record” to 88111 for easier access to Alberta administered vaccines. Health-care providers should have a record of two doses, a history of a lab-confirmed case, or a titre showing immunity. If you do not have one of these please consider a booster. Travel clinics and some community pharmacies can offer this privately if patients are not able to access public health clinic.

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## Compensation model launches

New resources are available to support physicians keen to learn more about the new Primary Care Physician Compensation Model (PCPCM), which launched earlier this week.

A total of 789 family physicians had signed up to receive compensation through the new model as of Monday, March 24. The following links are available to provide more information:

- New resources: [Billing basics](#) | [Billing for time by EMR](#) | [Practice agreement facilitation guide](#) | [Complexity adjusted panel payments](#)
- Existing resources: [Eligibility and enrolment](#) | [Understand the model](#) | [Operations manual](#)

**Live and on-call:** On Friday, April 11, from 12:30–1:30 p.m., the AMA is hosting a session on the PCPCM. [More details](#).

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## Reminder: Alberta Healthy Living Program dietitians

Effective immediately, Alberta Healthy Living Program (AHLP) dietitians in the Calgary Zone are no longer accepting referrals from primary care physicians for nutrition care.

Please note that the change applies only to dietitian consults within AHLP services. All other services remain unchanged. AHLP dietitians will provide specialized nutrition care on a limited basis. For details on accepted referrals, please consult the [Alberta Referral Directory](#). Read the [AHLP FAQ](#).

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## COVID-19 immunization, influenza

Alberta Health is recommending a biannual dose of COVID-19 vaccine for Albertans at higher risk of severe outcomes due to COVID-19 infection. Eligible Albertans who have previously received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine after October 1, 2024, are eligible to receive a biannual dose at least three months after their previous dose.

[Eligible patients](#) include:

- Individuals aged 65 and older
- Adults aged 18 and older who are residents of continuing care or supportive living
- Individuals aged six months and older with immunocompromising conditions
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit individuals aged six months and older

**Influenza immunization program ends:** Alberta's influenza immunization program drew to a close on Monday, March 31. Children under nine years of age who are eligible for a second dose can receive it until Wednesday, April 30.

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## MAPS town hall

A town hall was held on Wednesday, March 19 to discuss the latest news from the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative. [Download the FAQ](#).

Please note that PCN funding has been extended until March 31, 2026, and PCNs are expected to continue operating as usual until they transition into a regional network. A phased implementation strategy is being planned.

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## Patient test results online

Effective Thursday, April 3, test results and related documentation will be available to patients without delays via MyAHS Connect. Some test results were previously held for five days. [More information](#).

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## Quick links

### **PCN Pain Rounds: Hypermobility Syndromes and Chronic Pain**

On Thursday, May 29, from 5:30–7 p.m., the latest PCN Pain Rounds webinar will focus on diagnosing benign hypermobility and distinguishing it from Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. [Register](#).

### **CanREACH sessions**

The next CanREACH virtual mini-fellowship kicks off on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31. [More information](#).

### **Rheumatology best practices**

Starting Tuesday, April 22, the University of Alberta will begin hosting weekly online sessions on rheumatology and best practices for family physicians. [Register](#).

### **Reminder: Serological testing for celiac disease**

Effective Tuesday, April 1, serological testing for celiac disease will be standardized across the province and consolidated at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary. [Lab bulletin](#).