

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Webinar: Crucial conversations

[Crucial conversations](#) about obesity, death and dying will be the focus of the next webinar in the popular Calgary Zone series.

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](#).

All about FIB-4: A recording of the Calgary Zone's February webinar can be [watched online](#).

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 are as follows:

- Fever of 38.3 C or higher
- 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

For lab testing, please [read the lab bulletin](#).

Stabilization funding

The Alberta Medical Association began distributing transitional funding support payments to eligible physicians on Thursday, April 4.

Only about half of the family and rural physicians who are eligible to receive funding of \$24,000 to \$40,000 have signed up for the program. To apply:

- Visit the [Transitional Funding Program](#) (TSF) page

- Sign the declaration, and update banking info, via the [AMA dashboard](#). Payments are made via electronic funds transfer only

Please note: Physicians who do not see a TSF widget on their dashboard are not eligible. For assistance, email programpayments@albertadoctors.org

Mpox information

Physicians and teams are reminded to keep mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) on the differential diagnosis when seeing patients with relevant symptoms and risk factors.

Mpox is a rare pox-like disease and symptoms include a painful rash, lymphadenopathy, fatigue, fever, myalgias, and generalized malaise. The rash begins as a macule then progresses to a painful vesicle. Mpox should be considered in the diagnosis of someone who has had, within 21 days prior to the onset of symptoms, any of the following exposures:

- Sexual contact with new, anonymous or multiple partner(s)
- Sexual contact with a person(s) who had sexual contact with new, anonymous, or multiple partner(s)
- Significant contact with a person who had skin lesions such as macules, papules, pustules, vesicles or ulcers with no known alternate cause
- Contact with a known or probable case of mpox

[More information](#).

Mental health changes

Alberta is creating two new organizations to support mental health and addiction.

[Recovery Alberta](#) will be responsible for the delivery of mental health and addiction services currently provided by AHS, while the [Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence](#) will build recovery-oriented systems of care.

The new organizations will be part of the mental health and addiction organization created later this year as part of the Government of Alberta's refocusing health care plan. [More details](#).

General surgery referral

General surgery was added to the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment program at the end of February, which means referring providers can fax referrals through to a single fax number (1-833-627-7023) for that specialty, as well as orthopaedics, vascular surgery and urology. The following resources are available:

- [General surgery referral pathway](#)
- [General surgery referral form](#)

Adult immunization: Urban Calgary

The Calgary Zone adult immunization program centralized services at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre, effective Sunday, March 31. There is increased appointment availability for immunization services, including weekends and evenings. Adult immunization services are offered one day per week at the Brentwood, South Calgary Health Centre and Sunridge locations. Please note: The location of children's services will not change. [More information](#).

Reminder: Lab supply portal launch

Alberta Precision Laboratories' (APL) new community lab supply ordering portal went live on Monday, April 1. All community providers must verify their account by emailing CPSMOperations.EOC@albertahealthservices.ca. A new provincial requisition form has also been introduced for all community microbiology testing. The form can be [downloaded here](#).

Bioavailable testosterone and free testosterone: Effective Thursday April 4, bioavailable Testosterone (BAT) is available to order on all patients provincewide and will be added to the University of Alberta Hospital Special Chemistry Laboratory test menu. [Read the bulletin](#).

Quick links

Virtual care standards of practice workshop

On Thursday, April 18, from 7–8 p.m., the Alberta College of Family Physicians is hosting a PPIP-2 (Physician Practice Improvement Program) eligible workshop on *Looking at the Virtual Care College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta Standards of Practice*. [Register](#).

Billing rejections

On Wednesday, April 17, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a webinar on *Billing Rejections*. It is open to all PCN physicians. [Register](#).

STARS rural trauma course

On Wednesday, April 17, physicians are invited to a full-day course on up-to-date concepts in trauma care, specifically directed at those practicing in rural areas. [More information](#). Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) bursaries may be available for eligible candidates.

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](#).

CanREACH sessions in May

On Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25, CanREACH is kicking off its next *Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care Program* series. A limited number of places are still available. [More information.](#)

Rural provider attraction and retention conference

From Tuesday, October 8 to Thursday, October 10, the biannual Rural Health Professions Action Plan provincial conference on rural community health provider attraction and retention will be held in Wainwright. [More information.](#)

Nominate a colleague

The AMA is calling for [nominations](#) for people who have helped improve the quality of health care in Alberta. The Medal for Distinguished Service is given to a physician who has made an outstanding personal contribution to medicine and Albertans. The Medal of Honour is awarded to a non-physician. [More details.](#)

Mobile mammography in Strathmore

A mobile mammography trailer will be in Strathmore from Monday, April 8 to Saturday, April 13 and Monday, April 15 to Saturday, April 20. It will be at the Strathmore Peavy Mart, 300 Edgefield Place. [More information.](#)

Surveys, engagement opportunities

Project ECHO survey

Alberta Children's Hospital is asking community healthcare providers help them understand the perceived barriers and supports needed in managing the care of children with medical complexities including neurodevelopmental disorders. The hospital is embarking on a pediatric project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). [Complete the survey.](#)

Feedback opportunity: one:carepath

[One:carepath](#), an online digital support tool for primary healthcare providers, patients and their families, is seeking family physicians to participate in a provincial research initiative. It is designed to improve care for those with advanced chronic illness and cancer in their medical home. There are funds to support physicians who are interested in participating. [More information.](#)

Improving Health Outcomes Together survey

The Improving Health Outcomes Together (IHOT) team is developing an eLearning course on shared decision making for physicians. Doctors are invited to participate in a short, anonymous survey. [More information.](#)