

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Laboratory standing order changes

Lab test standing orders will no longer be available in lab databases as part of changes related to next month's Connect Care transition.

Effective Monday, March 27, labs in the Calgary area moved to paper processes. Patients who go to service centres for standing orders will be given a copy of their requisition and asked to hold on to it until expiration, which is up to 12 months. Expiration dates are printed on requisitions. There are no changes to standing order processes for mobile collections.

Calgary Zone labs are transitioning to Connect Care on Saturday, May 6. As part of the standing order changes, clinics have been asked to create annual review processes for patients with standing orders. [More information.](#)

Connect Care launch: With lab services transitioning to Connect Care, community providers are asked to ensure [Connect Care IDs](#) are on all requisitions. Please let AHS know if contact or eDelivery [information changes](#) or providers leave or join the clinic. Physicians working at more than one clinic may find that some documents only go to the default location. For support, call the provincial service desk at 1-877-311-4300 (select #1 for clinical applications, #1 for Connect Care; have your PraeID available). [More information.](#)

Glucose tolerance, gestational testing: Expedited appointment booking is available for patients in the Calgary area who need glucose tolerance or gestational testing. Patients can call the DynaLIFE customer care centre at 1-780-702-4486 or 1-877-702-4486 to book an expedited appointment. [More information.](#)

Reminder: COVID-19 testing, isolation changes

Rapid antigen tests will be the recommended COVID-19 test for most patients and healthcare workers as part of changes to testing and isolation announced by Alberta Health.

Assessment centres that currently offer molecular testing closed on Friday, March 31 as part of the changes. Molecular testing will only be available for high-risk patients who have negative rapid antigen test results and need to rule out COVID-19 (during pregnancy, for example). In these cases, swabs can be collected in primary care and [submitted to the lab.](#) [Requisition form.](#)

Effective Saturday, April 1, the previously recommended five-day isolation period for those with symptoms or a positive test will also no longer be required in public settings. [More information.](#)

Recording: Calgary Zone webinar

A recording of the Calgary Zone's latest webinar can now be [watched online](#). The virtual event, which took place on Monday, March 13, was viewed live by more than 350 physicians, staff and team members. It featured segments on a new alcohol use disorder pathway, orthopaedic access, and opioids. A [physician Q&A](#) and [slides](#) are also available.

Coming soon: The next webinar is scheduled for Monday, May 15, and will feature a discussion about a new Access Mental Health database for physicians and teams. [Register](#).

Quick links

Billing webinar

On Wednesday, April 19, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting an Alberta Medical Association billing session with Norma Shipley. It is open to all Calgary Zone PCN physician members and clinic billing staff. [Register](#).

Cognitive behaviour therapy for physicians

On Thursday, April 27 and Thursday, May 4, physicians can learn basic skills in cognitive behaviour therapy for pain management. The two-part in-person sessions are held at the Hotel Blackfoot, from 5:30–7:45 p.m., and include a dinner and presentation. Credits are available. [Register](#).

Rheumatology update

On Friday, April 28, from 7:30 a.m.–4:35 p.m., the University of Calgary is hosting a Rheumatology Clinical Update at the Health Sciences Centre. [More information](#).

Physicians caring for physicians

The Alberta Medical Association's Physician for Physician (P4P) program is looking for family doctors interested in taking on fellow physicians as patients. [More information](#).