



Alberta Healthy Living Program nutrition criteria

Effective Monday, August 18, the Calgary Zone Alberta Healthy Living Program is accepting patient self-referrals for dietitian counselling.

Previously, patients needed a referral from a health-care provider for one-on-one appointments. That is no longer necessary, but referrals from primary care providers will continue to be accepted. In addition, patients are no longer required to attend a group health education class prior to booking an appointment.

The changes are not yet reflected in online program descriptions.

Physician of the year

Nominations are being accepted for the Calgary Family Physician of the Year award. It is open to patients of Calgary area family physicians. Patients can [enter here](#).

Family physicians can also nominate colleagues for Specialist Physician of the Year. The award is for specialists who have shown exemplary collaboration with primary care. [Nominate a colleague here](#).

Webinar: Indigenous anti-racism and cultural humility

On Wednesday, October 1, from noon–1 p.m., primary care providers and staff are invited to attend a free Calgary and area PCNs webinar on *Awareness to Action: Indigenous Anti-racism and Cultural Humility for Primary Health Care*.

The webinar aims to deepen attendees' understanding of culturally safe, inclusive care. It includes engaging, interactive sessions and is open to all. For more information, please email info@calgaryareapcns.ca.

[Register](#).

Difficult to treat depression pathway

A new Calgary Zone mental health pathway has been developed to support the management of [difficult to treat depression](#).

It was created to help guide the enhanced treatment of patients with depression who are not responding to first line management. The Calgary Zone's [anxiety pathway](#) has also been updated and now includes revised guidance on medication use to reflect current best practices.

AHS school outbreak guide

AHS has refreshed its *Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Schools*. Updates include when to use soap and water for hand hygiene, a new “keep the school illness-free” section, and more detail on respiratory etiquette. [More information](#).

FAST patient information

Patients requesting information about the status of specialty referrals can call the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment information line at 1-833-553-FAST (3278).

The line is open Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (excluding statutory holidays). FAST staff answering calls have access to referral information in eReferral and Connect Care and share what is available. Callers are encouraged to sign up for [MyHealth Records](#).

[More information](#).

COVID-19 vaccination bookings

Albertans can now pre-order COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations through the [Alberta Vaccine Booking System](#) or by calling Health Link 811.

Those who pre-order will receive a reminder notification prompting them to book their appointment in early October. For most Albertans, there is now a fee associated with the COVID-19 vaccination; the cost is yet to be determined. [More information](#).

Reminder: Canada Disability Benefit, AISH implications

A [July update](#) to the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) policy manual summarized regulation amendments for the program to coincide with the start of the Canada Disability Benefit ([CDB](#)).

Being approved for the disability tax credit ([DTC](#)) is a critical eligibility requirement of the CDB, and the DTC application involves a medical practitioner.

The CRA has a dedicated toll-free phone line (1-800-280-2639) for medical practitioners who have questions about the DTC or who need help filling out the form. The CDB [application](#) does not require a medical practitioner's involvement.

Reminder: UBT testing

Effective Tuesday, August 5, Urea Breath Testing (UBT) has resumed after samples were sent out-of-province to Dynacare. All UBT testing will now be performed by APL and will be reported via the usual reporting channels under the UBT fields.

For samples that were referred out to Dynacare, a copy of the UBT result will be faxed or mailed to the ordering clinic. These results will also appear under "Miscellaneous External Test" folder in Connect Care. [More information](#).

Quick links

Elbow River Healing Lodge open house

On Thursday, September 18, from noon–4:30 p.m., Elbow River Healing Lodge and Indigenous Mental Health will host an open house at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre. The event will feature traditional Indigenous dancing and musicians at 1 p.m. For more information, contact elbow.riverhealinglodge@ahs.ca.

Blue-green algae advisories

Health advisories have been issued for exposure to cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), which can cause gastrointestinal and flu-like symptoms. While you can still use unaffected areas of a posted lake, Albertans are advised to avoid contact with visible blooms, keep kids and pets out of affected water, rinse off promptly if exposed, and call Health Link 811 if symptomatic. Advisories have been issued for Eagle Lake and Chestermere Lake. [More information](#).

Pain Society of Alberta Conference

Registration is open for the 19th annual Pain Management Conference, which takes place from Thursday, October 16 to Saturday, October 18 at the BMO Centre. [Register](#).

Canadian Conference on Dementia

From Thursday, October 16 to Saturday, October 18, the 12th Canadian Conference on Dementia will be held at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre. [More information](#).

Advance care planning resources

Tips for advance care planning conversations with patients are [available here](#). Resources are also available for [patients and their families](#). [More information](#).

Webinar: Substance use at the community level

On Wednesday, September 17, from 11 a.m.–noon, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction is hosting a webinar on *Community Policing and Health Partnerships*. The webinar is part of a summer series. [More information](#).

Alberta Virtual Pain Program webinars

Providers are invited to attend two-hour virtual webinars to learn more about the latest evidence in chronic pain treatment for adults.

- Friday, September 12, 9–11 a.m. [Register](#).
- Tuesday, October 7, 5–7 p.m. [Register](#).
- Thursday, November 20, 3–5 p.m. [Register](#).
- Tuesday, December 16, noon–2 p.m. [Register](#).

PPIP webinars

On Wednesday, August 27, from 6–7:30 p.m., the next session in the AMA's Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) series focuses on learning the ins and outs of billing, liability and patient location as part of quality virtual care. [Register](#).