

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



COPD referral algorithm

A new [referral algorithm](#) has been developed to help clarify which of the four Calgary Zone community programs are suitable for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patients.

The eligibility criteria for the [Alberta Healthy Living Program](#), the [Community Accessible Rehabilitation Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program](#), the [Calgary COPD and Asthma Program](#) and the [Integrated Home Care COPD Specialty Team](#) is as follows:

- Patients must have a confirmed COPD diagnosis (pulmonary function test or spirometry), and for the Integrated Home Care COPD Specialty Team, COPD must be the patient's primary concern
- Patients must be cognitively intact and able to at least understand and follow instructions

Download the referral algorithm from [Specialist Link](#).

Community lab appointments

More lab appointments have been made available in the Calgary Zone this weekend and next weekend as part of an initiative to reduce long wait times.

The Government of Alberta announced on Thursday, August 3 that Alberta Precision Laboratories will be permitted to offer appointments in addition to those offered by DynaLife.

A total of 400 new appointments have been made available at the South Health Campus and Peter Lougheed Centre on Saturday, August 5. An additional 175 will be available at Foothills Medical Centre on Saturday, August 12. They can be booked by calling 1-877-702-4486.

[More information](#).

Eating disorder resources

Point-of-care references are available to support health professionals caring for patients with eating disorders. They are as follows:

- [Addressing a possible eating disorder](#)
- [Common practice questions in eating disorder care](#)
- [Including parents/caregivers in the treatment of eating disorders](#)

Quick links

Mental health and addiction mandate letter

The Government of Alberta's mental health and addiction mandate letter has been released.

[Download it here.](#)

Reminder: Spinal surgery tele-advice discontinued

The spinal surgery tele-advice hosted by [Specialist Link](#) has been discontinued. Another option for physicians and nurse practitioners seeking non-urgent advice for spinal issues is to submit an [eReferral Advice Request](#). Urgent spinal questions should be directed to RAAPID and 911.

Health Link addiction and mental health

Patients who want help with an addiction or mental health concern can contact a help line at 1-866-332-2322. This confidential service is open 24/7/365 and is available provincewide.