

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Detecting lung cancer in never-smokers

To assist physicians in recognizing the signs, symptoms, and risk factors for lung cancer, Cancer Care Alberta has added new content to their Community & Primary Care Provider [website](#).

As the incidence of lung cancer in never-smokers (LCINS) is increasing, the updates include specific information about LCINS so it can be detected earlier.

LCINS is:

- Often not diagnosed until it is advanced
- Epidemiological and biologically distinct
- More common in women than men
- Fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths in adults
- Part of the 28 per cent of lung cancers in Canada that are not attributed to smoking

[Review the specific information on LCINS.](#)

Free N95 masks from the Canadian Red Cross

To help communities during wildfire season, the Canadian Red Cross is distributing free N95 respirators and medical masks on behalf of the Government of Canada on a first-come, first-served basis.

Healthcare organizations in communities affected by wildfire smoke and other public health events can order masks via an online form while supplies last.

For more information, visit the Red Cross's [mask distribution](#) web page or email maskdistribution@redcross.ca.

[Open the online form.](#)

Access Mental Health booking outpatient services

specialistlink.ca

Last updated: 7:22 a.m., August 21, 2026

In the spring, Recovery Alberta introduced an internal process change to support timely access to care.

Access Mental Health clinicians are now direct booking clients into many Recovery Alberta programs and clinics for outpatient services.

There is no change to several core elements of outpatient services:

- No session cap in outpatient mental health and addiction services.
- Referral criteria, eligibility, and service mandates remain the same.
- Treatment continues to be guided by clinical need, patient goals, and provider judgment.

[Get more details.](#)

Reminder: gFOBT delisting

Effective Tuesday, Sept. 8, guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) will be delisted and no longer available to order in Alberta.

Requests or specimens received on or after Tuesday, Sept. 8 will be cancelled, as the Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) has replaced gFOBT as the recommended test for colorectal cancer screening.

For more details, review the [lab bulletin](#) or visit the [gFOBT-delisting](#) website, which also collects feedback.

Quick links

PPIP: Healthy team culture webinar

On Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 90-minute webinar that explore strategies for supporting a healthy team culture and offers the opportunity to complete a Physician Practice Improvement (PPIP) action plan. [Register](#).

Full-day chronic pain education event

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, starting at 8:30 a.m., the Calgary Pain Program is hosting a full-day educational event online for healthcare providers who want to strengthen their understanding of chronic pain care with practical approaches you can apply in your clinical practice. [Register](#).

PPIP: AI tools webinar

On Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a one-hour webinar that explores AI scribes in medical practice and how this topic can fulfill any PPIP activity, followed by a 30-minute Q&A. [Register](#).

Start of the 2026-27 PCN Pain Rounds series

On Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 5:30 p.m., the first 90-minute webinar of the new PCN Pain Rounds series will be on the intersection of pain, addiction, and insomnia. [Register](#).

Women's health webinar series

Starting in October, the University of Alberta is hosting a three-part webinar series from noon to 1 p.m. on primary care management of postpartum recovery (Tuesday, Oct. 20), fertility (Tuesday, Oct. 27), and contraception (Monday, Nov. 2). [Register](#).

Survey, engagement opportunities

Survey: Primary Care Physician Compensation Model

Researchers from the University of Calgary are requesting physicians who joined, considered joining, or did not join the Primary Care Physician Compensation Model complete a 15- to 20-minute survey on core aspects of the model and factors that influenced their decision. [Open the survey](#).

Help improve HPV primary screening communication

Primary Care Alberta is seeking family physicians, nurses, and midwives for an OPTIMIZE-HPV (Optimizing Primary Care Communication for Implementation of HPV Primary Screening in Alberta) study; participation involves a one-hour virtual focus group. To learn more, please email meghan.macphail@primarycarealberta.ca or [register](#).

Antimicrobial stewardship in primary care project

AMR-One Health Consortium out of the University of Calgary is seeking family physicians, nurse practitioners, and community pharmacists to help shape a new antimicrobial stewardship toolkit designed to support real-world primary care decision-making. [Get the details](#).