



Wound care tele-advice service closure

Wound care tele-advice is no longer available on Specialist Link.

The closure reflects the availability of comprehensive wound care support through the Integrated Home Care Team.

If a patient requires assessment at the Wound Care Clinic, referrals are accepted through the Central Access and Triage (CAT) process for the Integrated Home Care Team.

Referrals can be faxed to 403-943-1602. The Wound Care Clinic is located at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre. [Review the update](#) on Specialist Link.

Primary Care Corridors: Post-town hall FAQ

A follow-up email to the July 21 town hall on Primary Care Corridors, hosted by the Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services, provided an FAQ document with additional information and points made at the town hall for consistency:

- The town hall did not discuss unattached patients, but the follow-up details add that Primary Care Corridors will help improve access to primary care by better coordinating services and planning care based on the needs of the local communities for unattached Albertans.
- The service agreements between PCNs and Primary Care Corridors (once established) will clearly outline services, funding, reporting requirements, and expected results.
- Physician-led PCN boards are expected to remain in place, providing governance and clinical leadership about how care is delivered locally.
- While the regulation to create the Primary Care Corridors as legal entities will come into effect on Tuesday, Sept. 1, there will be no changes to current PCN operations at that time; PCN staff will continue to be employed by their PCN and deliver comprehensive, collaborative team-based primary care.

[Open the FAQ.](#)

Lab bulletins

There are four new lab bulletins (three provincewide and one for Calgary and area).

specialistlink.ca

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

Delisting of guaiac-based fecal occult blood testing in Alberta (provincial):

- Effective Tuesday, Sept. 8, guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) will be fully removed as an available test (both as a point-of-care test and a central lab test) in Alberta.
- [Open the lab bulletin](#).

Updates to cancer and endocrine gene panel testing (provincial):

- The cancer and endocrine gene panels are being updated based on current scientific evidence.
- This change applies to samples analyzed in the laboratory after July 20.
- [Open the lab bulletin](#) for the affected gene panels.

Poliovirus and pertussis serologies for immune verification (provincial):

- Routine serology testing to assess immunity to poliovirus or pertussis is not offered because it is not recommended for this purpose, and all requests will be cancelled.
- Clinicians who suspect acute poliovirus infection should immediately consult the on-call microbiologist/virologist at the Alberta Precision Laboratories Public Health Laboratory.
- [Open the lab bulletin](#).

New contact information for Calgary Zone on fine needle aspirate requisition (Calgary and area):

- The contact information for Calgary Zone has been updated on the *Laboratory Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic Patient Referral Requisition*, and all previous requisitions 22224 (2025-12) should be discarded and replaced with the [revised version](#) 22224 (2026-07).
- [Open the lab bulletin](#).

Private diagnostic screening tests

Without a physician's referral, Albertans can now purchase diagnostic screening tests — including MRIs, CT scans, X-rays and ultrasounds — at participating private providers.

As announced on July 27, if the private preventative screening identifies a new, previously unknown cancer diagnosis, the patient will be eligible for reimbursement at publicly funded rates and have a year to submit their claim for reimbursement.

Additional details from the announcement:

- All medically necessary care will continue to be publicly funded.
- Physician- and nurse practitioner-referred medically necessary testing will remain publicly funded and prioritized based on clinical need.
- If cancer is detected or suspected, Albertans will be referred to Cancer Care Alberta for follow-up and ongoing care.

- The rollout began July 31, with participating clinics introducing services gradually.

[Open the news release.](#)

Reminder: New APL test directory

Effective July 28, a new Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) test directory was released for healthcare providers who do not have access to Connect Care (Epic).

You can find the link to the new test directory on the homepage of albertaprecisionlabs.ca or directly at td.albertaprecisionlabs.ca.

Please be aware that the new test directory functions differently than the old test directory:

- Your location must be selected prior to searching for test information.
- Collection container information returned is specific to the location selected when collected outside an APL/AHS facility and is specific to performing location.
- Complex tests may have additional guidance provided through a test selection guidance button.
- Panel tests (e.g., Protein Electrophoresis) show the performable tests under the order.
- Anatomical Pathology and Cytology testing information is accessed by a button next to location search.

Review the [laboratory bulletin](#).

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 where you can explore strategies for supporting a healthy team culture and 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](#).

Recordings of PCN Pain Rounds

Recordings of all webinars from the completed PCN Pain Rounds series are available in the Chronic Pain & Addiction Community on ACFP Networks. [Get more details.](#)