

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Vascular surgery referrals

Vascular surgery joined the central access and intake program earlier this week, meaning all referrals now go through Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST).

A new [referral pathway](#) explains the options available to providers:

- Non-urgent vascular surgery tele-advice is available via [specialistlink.ca](#), from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- For non-urgent consultation, complete the [referral form](#). Referrals are accepted via fax to 1-833-627-7023
- Urgent advice is available via RAAPID at 1-800-661-1700
- Emergencies should go to 911 or RAAPID, as appropriate

[More information.](#)

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## Measles case

Physicians are asked to report all suspected cases of measles following a lab-confirmed case in the Calgary area.

Cases should be reported to the medical officer of health on call prior to ordering testing, which can be arranged via this [information sheet](#). Please use the lab tracking number 2023-EI-1645 on all samples. Community physicians are advised to see patients with fever and rash at the end of the day, in a room with a door, to limit potential exposure. The measles vaccine is available.

Symptoms of measles include a fever of 38.3 C or higher, cough, coryza or conjunctivitis and generalized maculopapular rash. A red, blotchy rash appears three to seven days after symptom onset, beginning behind the ears and on the face, then spreading down to the trunk and lastly to the extremities.

[More information.](#)

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## Bronchiolitis: Less is best

Choosing Wisely Canada has produced a new “less is best” toolkit to help clinicians manage bronchiolitis in primary care.

Bronchiolitis is a viral infection that mostly affects infants and children under the age of two. Most children get better without the need for additional tests or treatment but more than half of children with bronchiolitis receive unnecessary tests or treatments such as antibiotics or chest X-rays.

[Download the toolkit.](#)

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## CanREACH workshops

The CanREACH program is offering virtual workshops in January on Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care.

The Continuing Medical Education mini-fellowship training program consists of a two-day workshop on Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27, 2024, followed by six months of biweekly case consults. [More information.](#)

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## Reminder: Stat testing standardization

A standardized community stat process and test list has been implemented at patient service centres and hospital outpatient collection sites throughout Alberta.

Tests should only be ordered as stat in urgent medical situations in which same-day results are expected to directly affect patient care. Consultation with lab medical staff is required for tests not on the provincial community stat test list. Review the [provincial community stat test list](#).

[Read the memo.](#)

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## Quick links

### Thank a colleague

Physicians can express their appreciation for colleagues, or thank them for acts of kindness, by taking part in the Shine on Gratitude Program. [More information.](#)

### Health care restructuring

Health professionals and patients are invited to have their say on the Government of Alberta's

plans for health care restructuring, which includes creating a division for primary health care. [Take the survey.](#)

**Point of care testing: HIV, syphilis**

Effective Monday, December 4, point of care testing for syphilis and HIV antibodies will be available at selected clinics. [More information.](#) Tools, clinic information and treatment guidelines related to the syphilis outbreak can also be found on the [outbreak web page.](#)

**Webinars: Postpartum hemorrhage management**

A three-part webinar series on postpartum hemorrhage management kicks off on Thursday, December 7, from noon-1 p.m. The series explores antenatal care, labour and delivery and caring for patients experiencing postpartum hemorrhage. The second and third webinars will be held on subsequent Thursdays -- December 14 and December 19, also from noon-1 p.m. [More information.](#)