

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone

Primary Care
Networks
CALGARY AND AREA

Specialist Link holiday schedule

Specialist Link's hard-working team of experts will be taking a break over the holidays and only selected services will be available.

Tele-advice will not be available on statutory holidays – Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26 and Thursday, January 1, 2026. Select services will also close from Monday, December 22 to Friday, January 2, 2026. Normal service will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Please click the [image at right](#) to view a list of service closures over the holidays or reference our more detailed [daily schedule](#).

Specialist Link Connecting Primary & Specialty Care		2025-26 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE				
For more information, call 403-910-2551 (extension 0) or email specialistlink@calgaryareapcns.ca		Holiday hours and closures are in effect for Specialist Link. Only select services will be available with no tele-advice on statutory holidays (December 25, 26, and January 1). Normal service resumes January 5, 2026.				
OPEN DEC MON 22 Closed: Child & Adolescent Gynecology Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Community Pediatrician Colorectal Surgery Endocrine Surgery Endocrinology Cardiology General Surgery General Internal Medicine Hepatobiliary Surgery Internal Medicine Obstetrics Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Palliative Care Surgical Oncology Transgender Health	OPEN DEC TUES 23 Closed: Child & Adolescent Gynecology Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Colorectal Surgery Endocrine Surgery Endocrinology Cardiology General Surgery General Internal Medicine Hepatobiliary Surgery Internal Medicine Obstetrics Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Palliative Care Surgical Oncology Transgender Health	OPEN DEC WED 24 Closed: Breastfeeding IBCLC (open until 12 p.m.) Child & Adolescent Gynecology Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Colorectal Surgery Endocrine Surgery Endocrinology Cardiology General Surgery General Internal Medicine Hepatobiliary Surgery Internal Medicine Obstetrics Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Palliative Care Surgical Oncology Transgender Health	CLOSED DEC THURS 25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED	CLOSED DEC FRI 26 BOXING DAY CLOSED		
OPEN DEC MON 29 Closed: Breastfeeding IBCLC Child & Adolescent Gynecology Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Community Pediatrician Colorectal Surgery Endocrine Surgery Endocrinology Cardiology General Surgery General Internal Medicine Hepatobiliary Surgery Internal Medicine Obstetrics Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Palliative Care Surgical Oncology Thrombosis Transgender Health	OPEN DEC TUES 30 Closed: Breastfeeding IBCLC Child & Adolescent Gynecology Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Community Pediatrician Colorectal Surgery Endocrine Surgery Endocrinology Cardiology General Surgery General Internal Medicine Hepatobiliary Surgery Internal Medicine Obstetrics Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Palliative Care Surgical Oncology Thrombosis Transgender Health	OPEN DEC WED 31 Closed: Breastfeeding IBCLC Child & Adolescent Gynecology Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Community Pediatrician Colorectal Surgery Endocrine Surgery Endocrinology Cardiology General Surgery General Internal Medicine Hepatobiliary Surgery Internal Medicine Obstetrics Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Palliative Care Surgical Oncology Thrombosis Transgender Health	CLOSED JAN THURS 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY CLOSED	OPEN JAN FRI 2 Closed: Addiction Medicine (open at 12:30 p.m.) Child & Adolescent Gynecology Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Community Pediatrician Colorectal Surgery Endocrine Surgery Endocrinology Cardiology General Surgery General Internal Medicine Internal Medicine Obstetrics Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Palliative Care Surgical Oncology Thrombosis Transgender Health		

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ASaP screening maneuvers

The Alberta Screening and Prevention (ASaP) screening maneuvers menu has been updated to reflect changes to guidelines and policy. Changes include the following:

- The recommended test and interval for cervical cancer screening has changed for those aged 50-69 (Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program recommendations and policy)
- Evidence-based practice points have been updated to include current tools and advice

[More information.](#)

Physician compensation model updates

More than 1,100 physicians have successfully applied and are now live on the new Primary Care Physician Compensation Model (PCPCM), which was announced in December 2024 and went live in April 2025.

Updated resources for the program include the following:

- [Operations manual](#) (version 4.1)
- [Financial calculator](#)
- [Conflict guide](#) for physicians
- Sample [action plan](#) for conflicts

Lab bulletins

Testosterone testing, reporting: Changes have been made to testosterone testing and reporting. Lab ID numbers have changed for “Testosterone, Free, Calculated” (LAB1756), “Testosterone, Bioavailable, Calculated” (LAB1757) and “Free Androgen Index” (LAB46244). In addition, components used in testosterone calculations will be reported individually and components ordered together with the calculated tests will be cancelled as duplicates, except albumin. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Vitros analyzers limit: The upper reportable limits on Vitros analyzers have been updated to align with the actual analytical performance of the Vitros platform. These updated limits will improve the reliability of results requiring dilution. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Netcare update: Effective Thursday, December 18, External Send Out (ESO) test results will appear in the appropriate discipline folder in Netcare. Miscellaneous tests will continue to be filed in the “Other” Netcare folder. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Cystic fibrosis genetic test: Molecular genetic testing for cystic fibrosis and cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR)-related disorders has been updated to include 139 pathogenic variants in the gene as the first tier of testing. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Reminder – removal of Epic enter/edit functionality: The “Enter/Edit” (E/E) functionality in Epic software for point-of-care-testing (POCT) Pregnancy Urine Manual test result entry has been removed. This change is part of the phased approach to remove all POCT E/E functionality. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Reminder: InnovateHealth training

Physicians and teams are invited to take part in a free, multi-session training program that aims to equip participants with the practical skills, mindsets and strategies to navigate change within Alberta's health system.

Funded through the Government of Alberta's Primary Care Innovation Grant, InnovateHealth is offering four modules, starting in January 2026. They are open to physicians, staff and teams.

[More information.](#)

Quick links

PCN Pain Rounds

On Tuesday, January 13, from 5:30–7 p.m., the next webinar in the PCN Pain Rounds series tackles *Digital Solutions to Scale Up Pain Psychology*. Dr. Maxwell Slepian addresses questions such as whether virtual CBT is as good as in-person and if AI is effective for psychological strategies. [Register](#). Past sessions are also [available here](#).

Reminder: ACFP Family Medicine Summit

From Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8, 2026, the Alberta College of Family Physicians is hosting the 2026 Family Medicine Summit at the Sheraton Suites Eau Claire in Calgary. [More information.](#)