

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Ortho access webinar, speeding up referrals

Solving the puzzle of how to manage and refer fractures will be one of the issues addressed in the [next webinar](#) in the Calgary Zone series.

On Monday, January 16, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Jason Werle will lead a segment on orthopaedic access. There will also be a double mental health segment on depression, and opioid use disorder. [Register](#).

Speeding up ortho referrals: Physicians are encouraged to request “next available” appointments for patients to help reduce wait times in the Calgary Zone.

Referrals can be made for a specific surgeon or facility through the new centralized process. However, by selecting “next available,” your patient will be placed on the shortest waiting list. All adult referrals for urology and non-urgent adult referrals for orthopaedics and spine – excluding oncological orthopaedics – should continue to be faxed to 1-833-627-7023. [More information](#).

Hip and knee wait times: Significant differences in wait times are being reported for hip and knee arthroplasty in the Calgary area. Average waits for next available or direct-to-surgeon referrals at South Health Campus are currently 120 weeks, compared to 80 at Alberta Hip and Knee. Physicians are asked to consider these wait times when initiating a referral for South Health Campus. Stay tuned for more information on initiatives to tackle the long waits.

Specialist Link holiday schedule

Specialist Link tele-advice services will be subject to closures over the holidays.

All 51 non-urgent advice lines will close on the statutory holidays, which are Monday, December 26, Tuesday, December 27 and Monday, January 2.

In addition, some services will be closed from Monday, December 19 to Friday, January 6. Normal services will resume on Monday, January 9.

Please [view the holiday schedule infographic](#) or [click here](#) for more details.

Lab transition updates

Collections for lab testing for patients in the Calgary area transitioned to DynaLIFE from Alberta Precision Laboratories earlier this month. There have been capacity and technical issues resulting in longer wait times on patient booking lines. The Zone is advocating for direct physician contact numbers outside of the queue. It is worth noting the following:

- Physicians requesting a change to critical lab coverage and/or delivery of reports during an absence should [complete this form](#) and email it to dynalifedataintegrity@dynamlife.ca or fax to 403-770-3235. [More information](#).
- All mobile lab requisitions should now be faxed, using the old forms, to a new number: 403-777-5222.
- The DynaLIFE [physician hub](#) details changes for community providers. New additions will be flagged for ease of reference. The full bulletin can also be [downloaded here](#).
- Supplies can be ordered via the existing supplier (Cardinal) until February 28, 2023. However, a few items must be ordered through DynaLIFE as of December 5.
- For more information, please call 403-770-3351.

Diagnostic imaging forms updated: Procedure request forms for diagnostic imaging have been updated. The change impacts all providers who refer using the AHS DI Procedure Request process, on paper or via clinic EMRs. There is no change for those referring on Connect Care. [More information](#).

Continuing Medical Education program reinstated

The Continuing Medical Education (CME) program has been reinstated as part of the new agreement between the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Medical Association. Retroactive payments for 2021-22 can also be sought. The reimbursable amount for 2022-23 will increase to \$2,200 for each eligible physician. [More details](#).

Quick links

Respiratory illness self-assessment tool

AHS has launched a [respiratory illness assessment tool](#) for patients. A [guidance document for family physicians](#) has also been updated, based on the latest evidence.

Screening and prevention updates

The [Alberta Screening and Prevention \(ASaP\) maneuvers menu](#) has been updated to reflect emerging evidence and improvements in screening.

Reminder: Family Medicine Summit

On Friday, March 3, 2023, to Sunday, March 5, the 68th annual Family Medicine Summit will take place at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff. [More information](#).