

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Specialist Link survey: Have your say

If you've used Specialist Link for tele-advice, pathways, or other resources, we'd love to hear from you.

By completing our [brief survey](#) – which takes about 10 minutes – you can help us plan for the future of this popular program. Tele-advice is being scaled provincially, which has provided opportunities to review service standards, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of our services. We'd also like to hear your thoughts on our pathways and the other resources hosted on [specialistlink.ca](#).

The survey, which is anonymous, is open to family physicians, specialists, nurse practitioners and health team members. Remuneration is not available but if you're passionate about improving Specialist Link, we'd love to get your feedback.

[Take the survey.](#)

Pathway updates: Medication and other changes have resulted in minor updates to the following pathways on [specialistlink.ca](#):

- [Chronic abdominal pain](#)
- [Chronic constipation](#)
- [Chronic diarrhea](#)
- [Dyspepsia](#)
- [Gastroesophageal reflux disease \(GERD\)](#)
- [Helicobacter pylori](#)
- [Hepatitis C](#)
- [Irritable bowel syndrome](#)

Lab appointment wait times

Patients are continuing to report long waits for lab appointments in the Calgary Zone, due to high demand, including walk-ins. Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE say one of the reasons for long waits for morning walk-ins is that in many cases, patients assume they need to fast. However, only the following lab tests require fasting:

- Glucose fasting
- Two-hour glucose tolerance, gestational

- Two-hour glucose tolerance

Please see the [attached requisition](#) with the tests highlighted. Read the [lab bulletin](#).

Please also note the following:

- Wait times for individual labs can be seen on the [DynaLIFE website](#) under 'patients/location'
- Booking a patient for time-sensitive appointments: Call 1-877-702-4486 and press #7
- Choosing Wisely Canada lists the following [recommendations](#) for primary care, many of which relate to lab tests
- The DynaLIFE [physician hub](#) details changes for community providers
- Physicians/clinics that need more information about a patient's test order can call 1-800-661-9876 and press #2 for Calgary Zone

Reminder: ASaP update

Alberta Screening and Prevention (ASaP) has updated its list of [screening maneuvers](#) for adults. As mentioned previously, the recommended age for biennial mammography for average-risk women has been lowered to 45 from 50. [Download the menu](#). In addition:

- Evidence-based practice points have been updated to include current tools and advice.
- Wording is simplified, and language has been updated to be 2SLGBTQ+ inclusive.

Quick links

Privacy webinars

The Alberta Medical Association is offering free noon-hour webinars on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 22: *Preventing Privacy Breaches*. [Register](#).
- Tuesday, March 14: *Spotting Privacy Risks in Your Clinic*. [Register](#).

Orthopedic access webinar

On Monday, March 13, co-hosts Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo host the latest Calgary Zone webinar. Topics include orthopaedic access and opioids. Those who pre-registered for the January webinar are automatically registered for the rescheduled date. [Register](#).

COVID-19 treatment changes

The [eligibility criteria](#) for patients to receive Paxlovid or Remdesivir has been updated. Evusheld is no longer being offered as a preventative treatment for immunocompromised patients.

Medical Lead: Alberta Virtual Chronic Pain Program

Applications are being sought for the position of Medical Lead for the Alberta Virtual Chronic Pain Program, a leadership position within the new Alberta Virtual Pain Program. [More details](#).