

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Alberta Find a Provider website

The Alberta Find a Doctor website, launched in 2019 by Primary Care Networks, has been renamed Alberta Find a Provider and can now be found at albertafindaprovider.ca.

The updated online tool, which is managed by Primary Care Alberta in partnership with PCNs, features a new home page and includes a link to the Alberta Association of Midwives website. The goal is to add other primary care providers in the future.

The website, which attracts more than one million visits per year, features 4,183 family doctors and 151 nurse practitioners. Between them, more than 800 are currently accepting patients, including over 450 in the Calgary area.

There are no changes to the day-to-day operation of the website. Please continue to reach out to your PCN with updates to listings or accepting status. [Read the news release](#).

Chief Medical Officer column: Read Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein's [thoughts](#) on Alberta Find a Provider.

Updated iron deficiency anemia pathway

The Calgary Zone's iron deficiency anemia (IDA) pathway, available via [Specialist Link](#), has been updated to reflect current evidence and provide additional guidance for clinicians managing patients with anemia.

Updates include an approach to new and chronic normocytic anemia, expanded recommendations for iron therapy and support for identifying underlying causes when they are not clinically evident. The pathway also includes details and comparisons of oral iron preparations, as well as guidance on dosing. [Review the pathway](#).

Lab bulletins

Interim changes to HIV viral load testing

HIV-1 viral load and HIV NAT testing have been transitioned from the Abbott m2000 platform to the Hologic Panther Aptima Quant assay. Please continue to use your current HIV-1 viral load

orderable. HIV-1 viral load results will now be reported in both copies/mL and log₁₀ copies/mL, the format of the Aptima HIV-1 Quant Dx assay. [Read the lab bulletin.](#)

Connect Care Point of Care Testing

Effective Tuesday, February 24, the “enter/edit” functionality in Connect Care for Point of Care Testing (POCT) urinalysis dipstick (manual) test result entry will be removed as part of the phased approach to remove all “enter/edit” POCT functionality. If you perform supported testing, please use the AegisPOC Manual Test Result Entry workflow. [Read the lab bulletin.](#)

Growth chart updates

AHS’s Childhood Growth Chart training modules have been updated to align with the current [Childhood Growth Monitoring Guidance](#). The series includes a new module entitled *Navigating Growth Discussions*. The module called *Calculating and Plotting* is now retired. [Modules](#) and [handouts](#) are available.

Bicillin L-A shortage (syphilis treatment)

Due to a national shortage of Bicillin L-A (Benzathine Penicillin G), interim clinical direction applies until supply stabilizes. Bicillin L-A, used to ensure safe and effective syphilis treatment, will be prioritized for:

- Pregnant cases and pregnant contacts of cases, and
- Cases and contacts likely to be lost to follow-up

Recommended treatment of all other adult cases of infectious syphilis is Doxycycline 100 mg PO BID x 14 days. Recommended treatment of all other adult cases of late latent syphilis is Doxycycline 100 mg PO BID x 28 days. Due to limited supply:

- Peripheral and community clinics will receive smaller allocations of Bicillin L-A, and
- Clinics are asked to place small, incremental orders to avoid stock-outs

For patient treatment history, case consultation or to order Bicillin L-A, contact STI Centralized Services at 1-855-945-6700 (option 4).

Quick links

Vaccine hesitancy webinar

On Monday, February 23, from 10–11 a.m., the third session of *Immunization in Alberta*, a four-part webinar series, will explore the drivers of vaccine hesitancy and misinformation in Alberta, and how these factors interact with access barriers to influence vaccine uptake. [Register.](#)

PPIP webinar

On Monday, March 2, from 6–7:30 p.m., the latest webinar in the Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT) series related to the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) offers practical tips on *Working Through Conflict: Mastering the Process*. [Register](#).

Health literacy workshop

On Thursday, March 5 from 8:30 a.m.–noon, Primary Care Alberta is hosting a webinar on the impact of health literacy skills on the patient's healthcare experience. To register, email CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca.

AI webinar

On Tuesday, March 10, from 7–8:15 p.m., ACTT is hosting the latest installment of its Digital Health Innovation series, titled *AI Innovators*. The webinar will explore a sampling of AI solutions designed specifically to combat Canadian healthcare challenges. [Register](#).

Transitions in care

On Tuesday, March 17 from noon–1 p.m., the next Transitions in Care Talk in the series focuses on effective approaches for supporting patients with complex medical and social needs through integrated care models. [Register](#).

Cancer Care Alberta workshop

On Saturday, April 18, from 8:30 a.m.–4:45 p.m., the 15th annual *Strengthening Linkages* workshop will be held virtually. There is no cost to attend, and family physician credits will be available. [More information](#).

Rehabilitation services for children, youth

Find out more about eligibility for [pediatric rehabilitation services](#) from birth to under six years old, and services for [children and youth](#) aged six to 16. Parents and guardians can self-refer. [Contact information](#). A toll-free rehabilitation advice line is available Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., at 1-833-379-0563.

Mental health screening tool pilot

EarlyDetect, a mental health screening tool funded in collaboration with the Government of Alberta, is seeking primary care clinics for a two-year pilot. EarlyDetect combines multiple validated approaches into one platform, helping to surface what might otherwise be missed. Learn more at earlydetect.health.

Chronic hepatitis B study

Physicians who have patients with chronic hepatitis B are encouraged to take part in a new study. The study aims to better understand how family physicians manage patients and how the Calgary Liver Unit can provide support. [More information](#).