

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Updated non-alcoholic fatty liver disease pathway

A new approach to risk stratifying non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) patients in primary care is detailed in an update to one of the Calgary Zone's most [popular pathways](#).

The [revised NAFLD pathway](#) is built around a “paradigm shift” in FIB-4 testing. The science behind the new approach will be explained in next week's [Calgary Zone webinar](#) – co-hosted by Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo – which features several topics related to liver health. On Monday, February 26, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Abdel Aziz Shaheen and Dr. Mark Swain will talk about FIB-4 testing, cirrhosis repatriation and alcohol use disorder liver scarring.

The [webinar](#) will also feature the usual primary care hot topics, and the Department of Family Medicine's Family Physician of the Year awards. Physicians attending the virtual webinar live will be eligible to apply for Mainpro+ credits. [Register](#).

Panel management support program

More information has been provided about the panel management support program, which offers family physicians and rural generalists financial support to help manage the costs of caring for an increasing number of patients.

The funding was originally announced last fall, following the release of the final reports from the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative. Eligible physicians should have received an email with a link to a declaration page on the Alberta Medical Association website. Those who are eligible and complete the declaration can expect to receive funding via direct deposit. Funding allocation is based on panel size.

Non-AMA members can contact laura.matchett@albertadoctors.org. [More information](#).

Good faith claims: A reminder that physicians can now submit eligible good faith claims, retroactive to April 1, 2022. [More details](#).

Urology referrals

Alberta Health Services is continuing to investigate an issue with a decommissioned fax line that meant some referrals for urology consults were not received.

It is not known how many patients were affected by the problem, which affected referrals sent between August 2023 and January 2024. Staff and physician resources are being added to support triaging referrals as soon as possible.

Clinics are reminded to update their contacts, replacing the old urology central intake number (403-592-4250) with the new number for Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST): 1-833-627-7023. You can also call the FAST office at 1-833-553-3278 Ext. 4.

General surgery launch set for Monday

General surgery is the latest group to be added to FAST program, with a launch planned for the Calgary area next week – Monday, February 26. The following resources are available:

- [General surgery referral pathway](#)
- [General surgery referral form](#)

[More information.](#)

Quick links

PCN Pain Rounds: Trauma and Pain

On Thursday, March 14, from 5:30–6:45 p.m., the latest session in the PCN Pain Rounds series tackles *Trauma and Pain: An Intergenerational Problem with Community Solutions*. [Register](#).

Neurodevelopment webinar

On Wednesday, March 6, from noon–1 p.m., the University of Calgary is hosting a virtual discussion on supporting research that addresses gaps in evidence for effective neurodevelopmental treatment. [Register](#).

Connect Care process changes

Physicians and clinic staff can troubleshoot issues related to Connect Care, such as duplicate notifications or discharge summaries going to the wrong location, via this [FAQ](#) document.

Reminder: CanREACH sessions in May

On Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25, CanREACH is kicking off its next Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care Program series. The program starts with two days of workshops followed by six months of biweekly calls. [More information.](#)