

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Primary care reform underway

The future of primary care was in the spotlight earlier this week as the government announced new funding to support the implementation of interim recommendations released by the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) strategic and Indigenous advisory panels.

South Calgary Primary Care Network hosted [the announcement](#), which included Health Minister Jason Copping pledging new investment in PCNs, physician payments and funding to strengthen and modernize primary health care. He accepted, in principle, all the recommendations from the MAPS panels, which relate to short-term opportunities to invest in primary care. [Strategic panel recommendations](#) included:

- Stimulus funding for team-based care
- Expand the use of non-fee-for-service compensation models
- Integrated supports for vulnerable and underserved populations
- Enhanced access through virtual care
- Strengthen the role of patients and caregivers
- Address the social determinants of health
- Reinstate the PCN operational stability fund policy

Recommendations from the [Indigenous panel](#) included the following:

- Create an Indigenous primary health care innovation fund
- Establish an Indigenous patient complaints investigator and Elders roster
- Appoint a panel to develop Indigenous cultural safety standards of care
- Create an Indigenous patient navigator program
- Support a mobile health clinic
- Create information sharing agreements

“These measures represent an important bridge to stabilize the primary health care system, support health care workers and ultimately provide better care to Albertans,” said Dr. Janet Reynolds, co-chair of the strategic panel advisory group.

A final MAPS report, outlining a five- to 10-year vision for primary care, will be delivered in the spring. It will serve as the framework for the future delivery of primary care. [More information](#).

Lab ordering, swab changes

Effective Monday, February 27, DynaLIFE will complete the rollout of its online supply ordering portal.

All medical supplies for in-clinic collections will be ordered through the portal and delivered directly to clinics. [More information](#). Login credentials were sent by mail. If you or your clinic have not received a login, please email supply.order@dynalife.ca.

All acute care and community locations in the Calgary Zone will start to replace red-top Amies swabs with ESwabs. All red-top swabs will continue to be processed and tested until the transition is complete. The new swabs can be ordered through the [physician supply portal](#). [Read the memo](#). 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
- 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

Physician Leads Executive election

Dr. Heather La Borde has been elected to serve as the Calgary Zone’s next PCN Physician Leads Executive.

Dr. La Borde, who has been on the board of Calgary Foothills PCN for the past seven years – including five as Board Chair – was the successful candidate following an election. A family physician at Bowmont Medical Clinic, Dr. La Borde sits on numerous zonal and provincial committees. Dr. La Borde will succeed Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein, who has held the position since October 2017. A six-month transition will begin in April 2023, with Dr. La Borde’s three-year term officially starting on October 1, 2023.



There are five Physician Leads Executives in Alberta – one for each of the five PCN Zones. Their role is to gather local PCN issues and concerns on behalf of PCN physicians, provide support and a voice for local non-profit corporation issues, develop applicable strategies, and recognize and adhere to local autonomy.

[More information](#).

Reminder: Specialist Link survey

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.

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](#).

Pain rounds: Indigenous pain

Guest speakers Teresa Magiskan and Arrow Big Smoke will co-host the latest installment of the Primary Care Pain Rounds series, a webinar on *Pain in Indigenous People (an ongoing reconciliation approach)*.

On Wednesday, March 15, from 5:30–6:45 p.m., participants will learn how to use the medicine wheel framework to co-create a biopsychosocial treatment plan with an Indigenous patient, as well as how to adapt office practices to build trust. [Register](#).

Places available: Palliative care course

There are a few spots still available at an upcoming free online *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care* (LEAP) course.

The next dates are Monday, February 27 and Monday, March 6, from 1–4 p.m. Featuring 15 modules of self-learning and six hours of interactive webinars, the course is aimed at providers who care for patients with life-threatening and progressive life-limiting disease.

Those interested in participating should email palliative.education@ahs.ca and indicate which PCN they are affiliated with. [More information](#).

Quick links

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](#).

Connect Care webinar

On Wednesday, March 15, at either 8 a.m. or 4 p.m., you can tune in to Connect Care: A Primary Care Primer. Register for the [8 a.m. session](#), or the [4 p.m. session](#).