

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



HPV screening webinar

On Wednesday, February 11, from 6:30–8 p.m., Primary Care Alberta is hosting a physician education session with the Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team called *The Next Chapter in Cervical Cancer Screening: HPV Screening Explained*.

The presentation will outline Alberta's rationale for transitioning to HPV screening and review supporting evidence. It is designed to address physicians' questions about the transition.

[Register.](#)

Lab bulletins

Changes to Roche diagnostic analyzers

The upper reportable limits on Roche diagnostic analyzers at urban or regional hospitals and the outpatient testing laboratory in Calgary have been updated to improve accuracy of diluted results and establish standardized reporting. This change will affect some commonly ordered tests. [Read the lab bulletin.](#)

Change to amiodarone and metabolite testing

The Amiodarone and Metabolite Level test will be performed using a new methodology: Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry. There will be a change in critical value, therapeutic ranges and linear range. There will be no change to ordering and collecting for this test. [Read the lab bulletin.](#)

Regional networks

In his latest column, Primary Care Alberta Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein references efforts to develop plans for regional primary health care networks, the organizations being established as an “evolution and expansion” of Primary Care Networks.

“We recognize the need for clear and practical guidance documents – particularly in the areas of attachment, referrals, quality improvement, quality assurance, and virtual care,’ said Dr. Greyvenstein.

[Read the column.](#)

Ownership change: As part of the Government of Alberta's refocused healthcare structure, ownership of Alberta Precision Laboratories will transfer from Alberta Health Services to Primary Care Alberta, effective April 1. There will be no changes to services, operations or how providers interact with APL. [More information](#).

MAPS newsletter: The latest Modernizing Alberta's Primary Care Networks (MAPS) newsletter looks ahead to a three-year "Modernization phase." [Read the newsletter](#).

Newborn screening

Resources are available to support primary care providers who want to discuss the importance of screening with expectant or new parents.

Formerly known as the Newborn Metabolic Screening Program, the Alberta Newborn Screening Program using the blood spot test is about health care providers working together with parents to screen for treatable conditions. [Information for parents](#).

Last year, one in 655 babies born in Alberta was born with conditions found through newborn blood spot screening. However, parental refusals for blood spot screening are increasing. Primary care providers can help mitigate misinformation and concerns about pain, privacy or misunderstanding of the test's purpose because of their relationship with new parents and their position of trust.

[More information](#).

Health care aide regulation

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta has become the College of Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides of Alberta, formally assuming responsibility for regulating HCAs in addition to licensed practical nurses. [More information](#).

Quick links

PPIP webinar

On Thursday, February 12, from 6–7 p.m., join Dr. Elaine Bland and Dr. Shelley Howk for a Q&A on the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP). [Register](#).

Standards of Practice webinar

On Monday, February 23, from 6–7:30 p.m., Dr. Andie Bains and Dr. Wen Nie are hosting an interactive session exploring College of Physicians & Surgeons' Virtual Care Standards of Practice. [Register](#).

RhPAP rural healthcare awards

Friday, February 27 is the deadline to nominate a rural healthcare hero for the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) Rhapsody Awards. [More information](#).

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](#).

MyHealth Records changes to parent/guardian access

Parents/guardians of children aged 15 years and under can now request access to their child's online health records through their MyHealth Records account. Patients and families can visit [MyHealth.Alberta.ca](#), contact 1-844-4014016 or email myhealthrecords@gov.ab.ca for support. [Provider information](#).

Reminder: Supporting HER Conference

On Friday, March 6, the University of Calgary is hosting a conference that includes a practical and evidence-based update on key clinical issues affecting women in midlife, including strategies relevant to primary care. [More information](#).