

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Good faith claims live

Physicians can now submit eligible good faith claims, retroactive to April 1, 2022.

The change, announced in this [Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan bulletin](#), means physicians will be compensated for providing care to patients who are:

- Not able to provide conventional proof of residency or registration, because they lack the usual identification but are very likely residents
- From another province or territory that has a medical reciprocal agreement with Alberta Health but have not presented a valid health insurance card

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## Register for FIB-4 webinar

It's not too late to register for the Calgary Zone's upcoming webinar, in which Dr. Abdel Aziz Shaheen will discuss the "paradigm shift" in FIB-4 testing.

On Monday, February 26, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Shaheen and Dr. Mark Swain will talk about several topics related to liver health, including FIB-4 testing as it relates to the non-alcoholic fatty liver disease pathway, cirrhosis repatriation and alcohol use disorder liver scanning.

The [webinar](#) will 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](#).

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## Urology referral issue

Primary care providers are being asked to check referrals sent to urology between August 2023 and January 2024 due to an issue with an Alberta Health Services decommissioned fax line that meant some referrals for consults were not received. AHS has requested the following:

1. Check your patient panel to see if you've sent any patients to Calgary Zone urology and/or Calgary Zone Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) urology between Aug. 9, 2023, and Jan. 1, 2024, and:
  - a) Identify which patient referrals have not received a consult letter, appointment booking or confirmation of being on a waitlist
  - b) Label any outstanding referrals with "LEGACY REFERRAL" and fax the outstanding referral to 1-833-627-7023
  - c) If you have access to Netcare, referral status can also be confirmed by logging into the patient record and viewing the "referrals in progress" on the left
2. Update your fax phone book to remove the legacy Urology Central Intake (UCI) number 403-592-4250 and add in Calgary FAST number 1-833-627-7023
3. Confirm if you have faxed legacy referrals or aren't sure, please call the FAST office to let them know at 1-833-553-3278 Ext. 4

Please [print this poster](#) and post by your fax machine to remind staff to submit to Calgary Zone FAST for all available surgical specialties. If you have any questions, please call 1-833-553-3278 (Monday to Friday) or email [ABFAST@ahs.ca](mailto:ABFAST@ahs.ca). Patients can call the AHS Urology Referral Assistance Line 1-877-720-0707 if they have questions or concerns. [Read the memo](#).

### **General surgery to be added**

General surgery is the latest group to be added to FAST program, with a launch planned for the Calgary area on Monday, February 26. [More information](#).

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## **Syphilis, gonorrhea resources**

Resources are available to support primary care providers to test for and treat syphilis in their clinics, following a surge in cases.

The number of infectious syphilis cases has increased dramatically in Alberta since 2014, while gonorrhea cases have also doubled in that time.

Sexually transmitted infection outbreak guidelines are [available here](#). There is also [information about testing](#) and [treatment guidelines](#).

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## **Quick links**

### **Have your say on healthcare reform**

The Government of Alberta has created an online portal for Albertans to have their say on the future of health care in the province. The feedback form takes about 15 minutes to complete and is open to all. [Have your say](#). Additional town halls and in-person engagement sessions have also been added. [More information](#).

### **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.](#)

### **Reminder: Cardiovascular disease risk screening webinar**

On Tuesday, February 13, from 7–8 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a practice improvement webinar focused on CVD risk screening and tracking. Registration is open to all PCN member physicians in the Calgary Zone. [More information.](#)

### **Physician self-compassion workshop**

On Tuesday, February 13, from 7–8 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association's Physician and Family Support Program will host a free webinar with self-compassion expert Kristin Neff. [More information.](#)

### **Neurodevelopment disorder webinars**

On Thursday, February 22, from noon–1 p.m., the Physician Learning Program will host the first of four free webinars on autism, neurodevelopmental and rare disorders. The first in the series will focus on recognizing, diagnosing and caring for autism and neurodevelopmental conditions. [More information.](#)