

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Webinar: Liver health

The Calgary Zone's popular webinar series returns next month as Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo co-host a [discussion focused on liver health](#).

On Monday, February 26, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Mark Swain will present a session on the FIB-4 “paradigm shift,” as it relates to the non-alcoholic fatty liver disease pathway. There will also be segments on 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.

[Register](#).

Transgender health tele-advice

Physicians and nurse practitioners in the Calgary area can now turn to Specialist Link for non-urgent transgender health advice.

Transgender health is the latest tele-advice service added to Specialist Link's growing roster of specialty advice services. It is available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (except statutory holidays). The service supports:

- Questions from physicians who need support for transgender and gender diverse patients
- Enquiries related to patients already on hormones who are seeking an opinion regarding transgender health
- Questions about monitoring, screening, defining lab targets, managing abnormal labs, side effects and other clinical concerns
- Resources or referral information for adult patients expressing gender diversity and wishing to start medical transition – for example, hormonal starts and gender-affirming surgery
- Appropriate resources and referral information for patients under the age of 18 expressing gender diversity, including exploration or starting medical transition

Specialist Link offers 52 tele-advice services, from addiction medicine to wound care. Requesting tele-advice is simple: Visit specialistlink.ca and click on the preferred service

(transgender health can be found by clicking on specialty services). You can also call 403-910-2551 (press 8, 2 for transgender health).

Please note: Obstetrics and gynecology tele-advice is now available via separate tele-advice lines. Previously, obstetrics and gynecology was a single, combined tele-advice service.

For more information, please contact specialistlink@calgaryareapcns.ca.

Reminder: Vascular surgery referrals

A reminder that all vascular surgery referrals now go through Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST). A new [referral pathway](#) explains the options available to providers:

- Non-urgent vascular surgery tele-advice is available via specialistlink.ca, from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
 - For non-urgent consultation, complete the [referral form](#). Referrals are accepted via fax to 1-833-627-7023
 - Urgent advice is available via RAAPID at 1-800-661-1700
 - Emergencies should go to 911 or RAAPID, as appropriate
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Pertussis information

Cases of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, have been identified in the Calgary area. The highly contagious respiratory infection is most infectious during the catarrhal stage (common cold symptoms) and the first two weeks after the onset of cough. If untreated, it can remain infectious for 21 days. [More information](#).

Quick links

Spots still available: CanREACH

A few spots are still open for CanREACH virtual workshops on Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care. The Continuing Medical Education mini-fellowship training program consists of a two-day workshop on Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27, 2024, followed by six months of biweekly case consults. [More information](#).

Pediatric fractures and dislocation course

On Thursday, January 18, from 8:45 a.m.–4:45 p.m., in Banff, the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine hosts a course on the initial management of pediatric fractures. [More details](#).

Rural anesthesia conference

On Friday, January 19, from 8:45 a.m.—4:45 p.m., the 26th annual Rural Anesthesia for GP Anesthesiologists Conference will take place in Banff. [More details](#).

Chronic pain and chronic disease workshops

Better Choices, Better Health workshops are open to patients aged 18 and older who have a chronic health condition or support someone who does. For more information, visit the information pages on [chronic pain](#) or [chronic disease](#).

Pelvic health physiotherapy webinars

Patients can sign up for free webinars on two subjects: [female urinary incontinence](#) and [recovering after a baby](#). The webinars run from January through April.

Pet policy

AHS has developed a new animal interactions policy, which came into effect earlier this month at its facilities. [More details](#).