

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Modernizing Alberta's Primary Care System

The Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative has released more information about its objectives and timelines.

A two-page document, which you can [download here](#), details MAPS' goal of producing a long-term strategy and road map for primary care. Overarching objectives are focused on the following priority areas:

1. Access
2. Integration
3. Quality
4. Albertans as Partners
5. Culturally Safe and Appropriate Care

[More information.](#)

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## Hematology FAQ

Everything you wanted to know about hematology (but may have been afraid to ask!) is referenced in a new [FAQ on Specialist Link](#).

Case management questions are covered in detail. Specialist Link also offers hematology tele-advice for physicians and other providers. Please note that a separate tele-advice line is available for thrombosis-related questions. [Read the FAQ](#).

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## Date change: Ortho access webinar

The Calgary Zone webinar scheduled to take place next week has been rescheduled for March to accommodate speaker availability.

On Monday, March 13, from 6–8 p.m., co-hosts Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo will introduce topics including orthopaedic access, opioids and medical assistance in dying.

Those who pre-registered for the January webinar are automatically registered for the rescheduled date and do not need to re-register. [Register](#).

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## Lab transition updates

Patients and providers are continuing to experience challenges related to lab testing following the transition to DynaLIFE. Demand for appointments remain high. Please note the following:

- The DynaLIFE [physician hub](#) details changes for community providers. New additions will be flagged for ease of reference. The full bulletin can be [downloaded here](#).
- Physicians/clinics that need more information about a patient's test order can call 1-800-661-9876 and press #2 for Calgary Zone.
- Booking a patient for time-sensitive appointments: Call 1-877-702-4486 and press #7. High call volumes have led to delays on this line.
- Physicians requesting a change to critical lab coverage and/or delivery of reports during an absence should [complete this form](#) and email it to [dynalifedataintegrity@dynalife.ca](mailto:dynalifedataintegrity@dynalife.ca) or fax to 403-770-3235. [More information](#).
- All mobile lab requisitions should now be faxed, using the old forms, to: 403-777-5222.

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## Palliative care course

PCN member physicians and team are invited to take a free online Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) course.

Featuring 15 modules of self-learning and six hours of interactive webinars, it is aimed at providers who care for patients with life-threatening and progressive life-limiting disease. Credits are available. The next available dates are Monday, February 27 and Monday, March 6, from 1–4 p.m. Those interested in participating should email [palliative.education@ahs.ca](mailto:palliative.education@ahs.ca) and indicate which PCN they are affiliated with. [More information](#).

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## COVID-19 subvariant

The COVID-19 Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 is circulating in Alberta and is expected to become the most dominant strain provincewide.

It is not yet known how effective the bivalent booster doses are against infection with XBB.1.5. However, AHS is advising patients to get their booster, when eligible, as it is expected to provide some cross-immunity and protection. [More information](#).

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## Quick links

### **ACFP webinar**

On Thursday, January 26, from 7–8 p.m., *College Complaints (and How to Avoid Them)* will be the focus of the next webinar from the Alberta College of Family Physicians. [Register](#).

### **COVID Corner**

On Wednesday, February 1, from 7–9 p.m., the next webinar in the COVID Corner series will focus on *Repeat Infection and Long COVID Risks*. [Register](#).

### **Opioid Use Disorder webinar**

On Friday, February 10, from 12:30–4:30 p.m., *Opioid Use Disorder* will be the focus of the University of Calgary's Psychiatric Quarterly Updates series. [Register](#).