

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## MAPS update, system changes

The completion of a two-year implementation plan is the focus of the latest Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) newsletter.

*MAPS Momentum* provides an update on work completed to date, which includes the transition of Alberta Find a Doctor management to Primary Care Alberta, as well as tasks still to be completed, some of which relate to the standup of regional primary health care networks. Following the completion of the two-year plan, the Government of Alberta is working on a three-year "modernization phase." [Read the newsletter.](#)

**Health system dashboard:** The Government of Alberta has unveiled a health system [dashboard](#) that shares metrics related to Alberta's healthcare system. [More information.](#)

**Peter Lougheed Centre:** Construction is complete on the \$151-million expansion at the Peter Lougheed Centre, which will create space for 97 new patient beds. [More information.](#)

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## Respiratory virus season

Hospitals and emergency departments are seeing high demand this winter due to seasonal respiratory illnesses. After significant pressure in December, early indicators show influenza A has peaked and is trending downward, and hospital admissions are declining.

According to Alberta's [respiratory virus dashboard](#), there have been 4,864 confirmed influenza A cases in the Calgary Zone to date and 13,981 Alberta-wide. A total of 66 influenza B cases and 839 lab-confirmed RSV cases have been recorded in the Calgary area. The Calgary Zone has also seen 1,541 lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19. [Know your options.](#)

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## Chief Medical Officer column

Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein, the former Calgary Zone Physician Lead Executive, is writing a regular column in his new role as Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care Alberta.

In his latest offering, Dr. Greyvenstein references health system stresses and recognizes Alzheimer's Awareness Month. [Read the column.](#)

## Lab bulletins

**Anti-Neutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibody test update:** Effective Thursday, Jan. 29, patients will only have an Anti-Neutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibody (ANCA) by indirect immunofluorescence as part of the ANCA test order completed once (first-time request). Any subsequent repeat ANCA testing will only include Anti-Myeloperoxidase and Anti-Proteinase 3 antibodies, and there will not be ANCA IIF tested. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

**POCT manual glucose and POCT Transcutaneous Bilirubin test result entry:** Epic Enter/Edit functionality for Point of Care Testing (POCT) Manual Glucose and POCT Transcutaneous Bilirubin (TcB) test result entry will be removed as part of the phased approach to remove all POCT Enter/Edit functionality. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

**Glomerular filtration rate calculation update:** Alberta Precision Laboratories has updated the equation used to calculate estimated glomerular filtration rate to the 2021 Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration equation. Note that results using the new equation will differ from those calculated from the previous equation. Also note: The 2021 CKD-EPI eGFR equation is not validated for use in children or pregnant women. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

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## Measles info in Connect Care

Connect Care users can now see new clinical information related to the ongoing measles outbreak in Alberta reflected in the History Activity section of the patient chart. This information will display as “History of Measles.”

The comment field will provide additional detail indicating whether the case was confirmed through epidemiological (epi) linking (public health investigation) or laboratory confirmation. The comment will also clearly identify that the History Activity entry was updated via an automated import, rather than through manual clinician entry.

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## Gender-affirming care

The prohibition against gender-affirming medical treatment and requirements related to changes introduced in the *Health Statutes Amendment Act* are now in effect and active. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta has developed an [Advice to the Profession document](#) to provide additional guidance. Questions can be directed to [standardsofpractice@cpsa.ab.ca](mailto:standardsofpractice@cpsa.ab.ca).

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## Quick links

### PPIP webinar

[specialistlink.ca](http://specialistlink.ca)

Last updated: 7:16 a.m., January 23, 2026

On Monday, February 2 from 6–7:30 p.m., the AMA is hosting its latest Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP)-related webinar. *Beyond the Pizza Party: Steps for Growing a Healthy Team Culture* explains how a healthy culture is the secret ingredient to high-functioning teams. [Register](#).

### **Chronic pain webinar**

On Tuesday, January 27, from 2–4 p.m., providers are invited to attend a free online webinar focusing on the treatment of chronic pain in adults. [Register](#).

### **Strengthening immunization**

On Wednesday, February 4, from 3–4 p.m., the second installment of a four-part webinar series will explore barriers to vaccine access and uptake among equity-deserving populations, including immigrant and refugee communities, Indigenous communities, and populations where trust, access and cultural context strongly shape vaccine decision-making. [Register](#).

### **Practice facilitation training**

The AMA's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT) is offering practice facilitation training, starting in February. [More details](#).

### **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](#).

### **System navigation in Indigenous communities**

On Tuesday, January 27 from noon–1 p.m., the latest webinar in the Home to Hospital to Home Transitions in Care Talk series explores how navigation supports can foster safe and supportive care transitions for Indigenous individuals, families and communities. [Register](#).

### **Breast cancer screening guidelines webinar**

On Monday, January 26, from 6:30–8:30 p.m., the Alberta Society of Radiologists is hosting a free webinar to help primary care providers build confidence and clarity in applying the Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines for breast cancer screening. [Register](#).