

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Specialist Link is back!

Happy new year from the team at Specialist Link. All tele-advice lines have now returned to service following the holidays.

All 48 tele-advice services are fully operational from Monday to Friday; opening hours vary depending on the service. The service is closed on weekends and statutory holidays. Clinical pathways and other resources are also available at [specialistlink.ca](https://specialistlink.ca).

For more information, call 403-910-2551 or email [specialistlink@calgaryareapcns.ca](mailto:specialistlink@calgaryareapcns.ca).

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## Lab bulletins

**Colposcopy pathology requisition:** Clinicians are asked to use the new provincial colposcopy pathology requisition form. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

**Pediatric hematology change of practice:** The on-call pediatric hematologist is now responsible for contacting the primary care provider and ensuring the appropriate diagnostic testing and follow up are initiated. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

**Contact information for fine needle aspirate requisition:** Calgary Zone contact information has been updated in a [revised form](#). The phone number has been changed to 403-943-5642. The fax number has been changed to 403-291-2931. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

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## 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.

The *Supporting HER: Practical Tools for Women's Midlife Health in Primary Care Conference* offers participants the chance to explore best practices in menopause care, hormonal therapy, sexual health, mental health, chronic disease risk and emerging screening approaches.

[More information](#).

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

Last updated: 7:16 a.m., January 9, 2026

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## Reminder: ASaP screening maneuvers

The Alberta Screening and Prevention (ASaP) screening maneuvers menu has been updated to reflect changes to guidelines and policy. Changes include the following:

- The recommended test and interval for cervical cancer screening has changed for those aged 50-69 (Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program recommendations and policy)
- Evidence-based practice points have been updated to include current tools and advice

[More information](#).

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## Reminder: HPV primary screening

Alberta has transitioned to HPV primary screening as the standard for cervical cancer screening beginning with women and people with a cervix aged 50 to 69.

For provider resources, including FAQs, the clinical pathway and follow-up instructions, visit Primary Care Alberta's [Screening for Life](#) website.

Note: The Cervical Cancer Screening Clinical Practice Guidelines will be undergoing a review process over the next several months. Providers will be notified when updated guidelines are available.

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## Reminder: InnovateHealth training

Physicians and teams are invited to take part in a free, multi-session training program that aims to equip participants with the practical skills, mindsets and strategies to navigate change within Alberta's health system.

Funded through the Government of Alberta's Primary Care Innovation Grant, InnovateHealth is offering four modules, starting in January. They are open to physicians, staff and teams.

[More information](#).

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## Quick links

### PCN Pain Rounds

On Tuesday, January 13, from 5:30–7 p.m., the next webinar in the PCN Pain Rounds series tackles *Digital Solutions to Scale Up Pain Psychology*. Dr. Maxwell Slepian addresses questions such as whether virtual CBT is as good as in-person and if AI is effective for psychological strategies. [Register](#). Past sessions are also [available here](#).

### **Pediatric fractures and dislocations course**

On Thursday, January 22, practitioners are invited to learn the knowledge and skills necessary in the initial management of pediatric fractures. The all-day course is being held at Banff Park Lodge in Banff. [More details](#). [Register](#).

### **Chronic hepatitis B study**

Physicians who have patients with chronic hepatitis B are encouraged to take part in a new study. The study aims to better understand how family physicians manage CHB patients and how the Calgary Liver Unit can provide support. [More information](#).

### **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](#).

### **Nicotine 2.0 webinars**

Starting Tuesday, January 20, the Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis Program at Primary Care Alberta invites healthcare providers to attend a new webinar series, *Nicotine 2.0*. The series offers an engaging look at new nicotine products (such as vapes and nicotine pouches) and their role in helping adults quit smoking. Two one-hour sessions or a single two-hour session are available.

- Tuesday, January 20 and Thursday, Jan. 22 (noon–1 p.m.): [Register here](#).
- Wednesday, January 21 (1–3 p.m.): [Register here](#).
- Thursday, January 22 (6–8 p.m.): [Register here](#).

### **Primary Health Care Learning Portal**

Primary health care partners are invited to access e-learning resources through the Primary Health Care Learning Portal, hosted on the Absorb Learning Management System. Primary Care Alberta's Promoting Health, Partnership & Innovation department provides cost-effective access to 57 live courses. [More information](#).

### **HealthChange Learning Series**

Primary Care Alberta's [HealthChange](#) Learning Series has availability in January, beginning with three e-Modules (prerequisites), followed by a two-part virtual workshop. The workshops offer interactive activities to help learners practice using HealthChange skills. [More information](#).

### **Reminder: ACFP Family Medicine Summit**

From Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8, 2026, the Alberta College of Family Physicians is hosting the 2026 Family Medicine Summit at the Sheraton Suites Eau Claire in Calgary. [More information](#).