

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Clinical appropriateness of MRIs update

Hip (osteoarthritis) and shoulder (chronic or non-traumatic shoulder pain) MRI referrals for patients aged 55 and up are now part of the existing, expanded process for reviewing clinical appropriateness.

Acute Care Alberta expanded the existing appropriateness initiative in alignment with Choosing Wisely Canada guidelines to support evidence-based diagnostic testing and ensure imaging is necessary and beneficial to the patient's outcomes.

An examination may be declined when a request does not align with the guidelines, and the referring provider will be notified.

If imaging is expected to meaningfully inform care in the individual patient's context, you can provide additional clinical details, and the referral can be reconsidered.

[Open the full memo.](#)

Tele-advice hours change: Neurology and Thrombosis

Effective as of July 2, tele-advice hours for Specialist Link's [Neurology](#) and [Thrombosis](#) services are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (previously 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.), Monday - Friday.

Tele-advice hours vary by specialty and are listed on each specialty page for the most current information.

Reminder: The [Specialist Link](#) website has been updated to make it quicker and easier to access specialties, tele-advice services and pathways.

Check out the [one-page guide](#) on how to get the most out of the website.

Dr. Spady's first CMO column

As the new Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Primary Care Alberta, Dr. Mike Spady shares some of his background as he introduces himself in his first CMO column.

He also emphasizes: "The CMO office will continue to hold true to our organization's mission, vision and values as we focus on the evolution of Primary Care Networks, team-based care,

system integration, referral management, Indigenous MAPS priorities (Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System), and screening."

[Open the full column.](#)

Day Medicine referrals

For physicians without AHS privileges, the Day Medicine Community Provider Program (Day Medicine) accepts referrals for adult patients for:

- IV iron for iron deficiency anemia for patients intolerant of oral iron. Ferritin <30 ug/L or in the setting of CKD or inflammation ferritin<100ug/L or transferrin saturation <0.20 and hemoglobin for a Male <135 g/L and Female Hgb < 120g/L).
- Zoledronic Acid for patients with uncomplicated osteoporosis who meet the Alberta Blue Cross Special Authorization criteria.
- Blood transfusions (limited circumstances including hemodynamically stable and as a bridge to Mobile Integrated Health, bridge to specialty assessment).

Referrals should be faxed to the Day Medicine program at 403-252-6382.

[Get more details.](#)

Reminder: Parking placards for people with disabilities

Physicians and nurse practitioners who may be asked to assess and certify patients for parking placards should be aware of updates to the [parking placard program](#).

The update adds vision loss to the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility includes individuals unable to walk more than 50 metres (164 feet) or who have a loss of vision that substantially limits safe and independent mobility when navigating parking areas.

Quick links

PCN Pain Rounds: Pelvic pain

On Monday, July 20 at 5:30 p.m., the latest 90-minute PCN Pain Rounds webinar in the series focuses on the role of primary care in helping manage pelvic pain, including common causes and building a toolkit of resources. [Register.](#)

PPIP webinar

On Monday, Aug. 24 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 90-minute webinar

on taking your interpersonal conflict management skills to the next level and completing a Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) action plan. [Register](#).

Climate-related health, environmental impact resources

Earth to Action, a project of the University of Calgary's Family Medicine Department, offers clinics ready-to-use tools and resources to support patients in adapting to climate change, plus the option to sign up for the project. Visit earth2action.ca for more details.

Health literacy practice session

On Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 1 p.m., join Primary Care Alberta's three-hour plain language practice session to build plain skills through activities and resource exploration. Please email CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca to learn more or to register.

Chronic disease and the patient experience

On Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 8:30 a.m., join Primary Care Alberta's next 3.5-hour workshop on improving the patient experience in chronic disease management. A self-paced online module must be completed before attending the live session. Please email CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca to learn more or to register.

Alberta Virtual Pain Program fax number change

Reminder: The Alberta Virtual Pain Program (AVPP), formerly under Primary Care Alberta, has transitioned to Recovery Alberta. There is no change to the way referrals are accepted, but the fax number for referrals has been updated to 403-355-0666. [More information](#).