

## **Measles resources**

Alberta Precision Laboratories has updated its <u>measles specimen collection pathway</u> to include zone-specific contacts, among other things. <u>Read the lab bulletin</u>.

Meanwhile, measles immunity (IgG) testing for immunity on stored prenatal bloods from pregnant patients can be requested by completing a FAX add-on request available at <a href="ProLab">ProLab</a> Add On Test Fax (AHS.ca). More information.

Primary care providers can also refer to a measles resources document compiled by AHS. It consolidates information from several sources and references symptoms, complications, prevention and control. Read the document.

The latest on measles exposures is documented online, including a recent case in Claresholm.

A reminder that all practitioners in the Calgary Zone are advised to consider measles in undervaccinated individuals presenting with a febrile illness. Locally acquired cases may not have a known source. Appointments for immunization are available within the week across the zone. A measles hotline is available at 1-844-944-3434. Physicians can also report suspected and probable cases to the physician reporting line at 1-844-343-0971 (option 1).

## Panel conflict resources

New resources are available to help physicians and teams enrolled in the Primary Care Physician Compensation Model (PCPCM) address panel conflicts.

Conflicts can impact the patient's care, and starting in April 2026, it could also impact physician compensation.

The Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT) has developed a <u>conflict management process</u>, a <u>fax template</u> for communicating with conflicting clinics, a sample telephone script for <u>conflict calls</u> and other tools. The conflict rate in the Calgary Zone is 14.3 per cent.

More information.

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# Order TPP pads online

Tracked Prescription Program (TPP) pads can now be re-ordered online from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

Pads continue to be delivered by Purolator during Canada Post disruptions. Email, fax and phone orders are still accepted when necessary.

More information.

**Registration for IMGs:** CPSA is simplifying the registration process for international medical graduates (IMGs) from approved jurisdictions. <u>More information</u>.

# Reminder: Hematology tele-advice

The hematology tele-advice line offered through Specialist Link is now called Hematology (adult) to reflect that the service is intended only for adult patients. Questions about pediatric patients should be directed to the Alberta Children's Hospital, via 403-955-7211.

The hematology FAQ has also been updated with additional information, including guidance on managing thrombocytosis not yet diagnosed. Review the <u>updated resource</u>.

## **Quick links**

#### **PPIP** webinars

On Wednesday, August 27, from 6–7:30 p.m., the next session in the AMA's Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) series focuses on learning the ins and outs of billing, liability and patient location as part of quality virtual care. <u>Register</u>.

#### Lab bulletin: Delays in urea breath testing

Alberta Precision Laboratories is temporarily referring all Urea Breath Tests (UBTs) out of province to Dynacare. Delays are expected. <u>More information</u>.

## Lab bulletin: Acetylcholine Receptor Antibody testing

Effective Tuesday, July 15, the University of Alberta Hospital lab in Edmonton will perform serum Acetylcholine Receptor Antibody (AChR) testing by fixed cell-based assay for all patients with clinical suspicion for Myasthenia Gravis. More information.

#### PCN Pain Rounds: Pain reprocessing, cognitive functional therapy

On Tuesday, July 22 at 5:30 p.m., join the final 90-minute webinar in the current PCN Pain

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Rounds series to explore the similarities and differences between pain reprocessing therapy and cognitive functional therapy. Register.

#### **Mindful Practice in Medicine**

From Wednesday, October 22 to Saturday, October 25, the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine is hosting a three-day workshop on mindfulness-based strategies in Cochrane. There is a fee for the workshop, which is based on programs developed at the University of Rochester. More information.

### Reminder: Ordering changes for CBC and differential

Changes have been made for ordering CBC and differentials within a 24-hour period. If a clinic has already ordered a single CBC and differential for a patient and decides to repeat the order within 24 hours, the differential will not be completed again within the 24-hour timeframe. Read the bulletin.

## Reminder: New process for ordering stool kits

Alberta Precision Labs is requesting that clinics stop sending orders for stool kits to ProvLab and instead request them from the AHS online ordering portal at <a href="AHS Supplies Ordering">AHS Supplies Ordering</a>. Read the bulletin.

### Reminder: Routine C. diphtheriae toxin testing

AHS has discontinued routine toxin testing for Corynebacterium diphtheriae in cutaneous (skin) specimens. Providers involved in wound care should be aware that toxin testing will now require prior consultation with a microbiologist or infectious disease specialist. Read the bulletin.

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