



MAPS update: Primary care corridor health corporations

Alberta's government is creating seven primary care corridor health corporations, including the Calgary Primary Care Corridor Health Corporation, under Primary Care Alberta (PCA), as announced in a July 16 [news release](#).

These primary care corridor health corporations (or Primary Care Corridors) will support coordination across Alberta's 39 PCNs, align service delivery with provincial priorities, and enhance accountability and oversight.

PCNs will continue to operate as independent organizations with their own staff and governance to deliver team-based care, as clarified by the Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) in a July 21 town hall. PCNs will transition from the current grant funding agreements to service agreements with the Primary Care Corridors.

Aligning with the seven existing [regional health corridors](#), the Primary Care Corridors will take on planning and coordination work as a new model that builds on the recommendations of the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative for a stronger regional approach:

- The new model aims to reduce the administrative load on front-line providers by handling regional planning, funding agreements, reporting, and coordination.
- This will allow PCNs to continue focusing on delivering local team-based primary care with physicians and other health professionals.
- The regulation to create the legal entities will come into force on Tuesday, Sept. 1.
- The Primary Care Corridors are expected to become operational in spring 2027.

PPHS also clarified that this new model is a refined version of the originally proposed regional network model, and that they will share more information on the model and meet with PCNs in the coming months as the next steps.

New APL test directory

Effective Tuesday, July 28, a new Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) test directory will be released for healthcare providers who do not have access to Connect Care (Epic).

Directly integrated with Epic (the software that powers Connect Care), the new test directory will make accurate, up-to-date laboratory test information readily available and replace two existing interim laboratory test directories with a single provincial resource.

Please be aware that the new test directory will function differently than the current test directory:

- Your location must be selected prior to searching for test information.
- Collection container information returned will be specific to the location selected when collected outside an APL/AHS facility and is specific to performing location.
- Complex tests may have additional guidance provided through a test selection guidance button.
- Panel tests (e.g., Protein Electrophoresis) will show the performable tests under the order.
- Anatomical Pathology and Cytology testing information will be accessed by a button next to location search.

The new test directory will be launched on albertaprecisionlabs.ca.

You can review the [laboratory bulletin](#) for more information and the test directory basic instructions sheet.

Additional lab bulletins:

- Effective Tuesday, July 28, the Analytical Toxicology laboratory at the APL Calgary Hub Lab will resume in-house testing for Plasma Catecholamines (PCAT; test components include Dopamine, Epinephrine and Norepinephrine); please note the new PCAT reference intervals in the [lab bulletin](#).
- A nucleic acid test (NAT) for Mycoplasma genitalium, Mycoplasma hominis, Ureaplasma urealyticum, and Ureaplasma parvum will be implemented at the Alberta Provincial Public Health Laboratory, enabling testing to be performed in-province:
 - Routine Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma culture will be discontinued.
 - Requests for Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma NAT will no longer be referred out of province.
 - A dedicated specimen for Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma NAT will be required.
 - This testing will begin in a staged approach based on specimen source: Thursday, July 23 for genital and urine specimens and Monday, Aug. 10 for all other accepted specimens.
 - Please open the [lab bulletin](#) for more details.

CPSA: Updated TPP Atlas

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) administers the provincial Tracked Prescription Program ([TPP Alberta](#)) to monitor medications prone to misuse or overprescribing.

TPP Alberta encourages all health professionals to review the latest updates to the TPP Alberta Medical Utilization Atlas ([TPP Atlas](#)) for insights into the prescribing and dispensing of TPP-monitored medications in Alberta.

The tool is intended to support a broader understanding of prescribing and dispensing trends across the province as well as education, research, and healthcare planning.

[Open the TPP Atlas.](#)

Reminder: 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.](#)

Quick links

Health card expiration

As of July 2, all new health cards issued to access insured health services under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) will have an expiry date. [Get more details.](#)

New patient pathways

The Provincial Pathways Unit has made two more patient pathways available online: The [journey](#) with lower urinary tract symptoms for those with a female genitourinary tract and the [journey](#) with preventing female recurrent urinary tract infection.

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.](#)

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 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.