

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Dr. Spady named Chief Medical Officer

Calgary Zone PCN Council Co-Chair Dr. Mike Spady has been appointed Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care Alberta, effective Wednesday, July 1.

Dr. Spady, who went to medical school at the University of Alberta and moved to Calgary for his residency, will take on the role formerly held by another former Calgary Zone physician leader, Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein, with whom Dr. Spady helped establish the Calgary Zone PCN Council and Committee in 2017.

"It has been my great pleasure and honour to work with the Calgary Zone organization from its inception and through many structural and governance changes," said Dr. Spady, who is currently serving as Interim CMO. "It truly has been the highlight of my career, where I feel we made the most impact and positive change for patients and primary care providers."

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## Check out the updated Specialist Link website

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

The popular Calgary Zone service, launched in 2014, has a powerful new search tool that allows family physicians, nurse practitioners and other providers to look for services by specialties, which are now listed from A to Z on the homepage. Check out our [one-page guide](#) on how to get the most out of the website.

**Osteoporosis FAQ:** An FAQ has been developed to support the assessment and management of osteoporosis in adult patients within primary care. Co-developed by specialty and primary care, it is intended for complex or non-urgent cases and can be used in conjunction with [Specialist Link](#) tele-advice services such as endocrinology. [Read the FAQ.](#)

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## Reminder: Obstetrical services in the community

A list of community-based obstetrical providers in the Calgary area is now available to support family physicians, nurse practitioners and clinics to refer patients in need of timely and appropriate care.

The list, posted on [Specialist Link](#), is organized by geographical quadrant and the corresponding acute care site, as well as acuity (low risk versus high risk). Listings will be updated at regular intervals. [Review the provider list](#).

**Out-of-country referrals:** Obstetrical providers within the Calgary area have adopted a standardized process for triaging and accepting out-of-country (OCC) patients. Referrals should be directed to Alberta Zone Inc. (Medi-Com Consulting Inc.), which coordinates care and collects the standardized deposit required for uninsured services. Call 403-295-1465 for more information or fax 403-275-7966.

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## ECG reports

ECG written textual reports are now being sent to the EMR of the ordering or authorizing provider and any “copy to” providers if their preferred delivery method is eDelivery. Reports, including waveform tracings, will continue to be faxed. [More information](#).

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## Placard program: People with disabilities

Physicians and nurse practitioners who may be asked to assess and certify patients for eligibility for parking placards should be aware of updates to the [parking placard program](#). The changes are designed to improve accessibility. [More information](#).

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## Quick links

### **PCN Pain Rounds: Pelvic pain**

On Monday, July 20, from 5:30–7 p.m., the latest PCN Pain Rounds webinar in the series focuses on the role of primary care in helping manage pelvic pain. The online session includes a discussion on practical approaches and resources to support patients experiencing pelvic pain. [Register](#).

### **PPIP webinar**

On Monday, August 24, from 6–7:30 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 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 workshop**

On Tuesday, July 14, from 8:30 a.m.–noon, Primary Care Alberta is hosting a workshop exploring the impact of health literacy skills on your patients’ healthcare experience. For more information and to register, email [CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca).

**Alberta Pharmacists' Association agreement**

The Government of Alberta and the Alberta Pharmacists' Association have come to an agreement on a new framework that includes longer prescription refills for Albertans with stable, chronic conditions. [More information.](#)

**Alberta Virtual Pain Program fax number**

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.](#)