

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Lab supply portal launch

Alberta Precision Laboratories' (APL) new community lab supply ordering portal will go live on Monday, April 1. To prepare for the launch, all community providers must verify their account by emailing CPSMOperations.EOC@albertahealthservices.ca. Failure to do so will result in the inability to access or order clinical lab test supplies. [More information.](#)

Requisitions: A new provincial requisition form has been introduced for all community microbiology testing. The form can be [downloaded here](#); it should also be available in most EMRs. It was updated and posted by APL earlier this week. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Refocusing health update

On Thursday, March 21, Health Minister Adriana LaGrange provided an update on the government's plans for healthcare reform in Alberta.

More than 2,500 people have participated in in-person engagement sessions. About 18,000 have provided feedback virtually, with around 10,000 via virtual town halls. More sessions have been added. The government also announced that the continuing care organization rollout will also be delayed until the fall. [Watch the update.](#) [Engagement opportunities.](#)

Decreasing administrative burden: A report on decreasing administrative burden in primary care can be [downloaded here](#). The report, prepared by the Alberta College of Family Physicians and the Alberta Medical Association, revealed that filling out forms, chasing results, completing referrals, and Connect Care and Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment processes were among the tasks identified as contributing to increasing administrative burden. [More information.](#)

General surgery referral

General surgery was added to the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment program at the end of February, which means referring providers can fax referrals through to a single fax number (1-833-627-7023) for that specialty, as well as orthopaedics, vascular surgery and urology. The following resources are available:

- [General surgery referral pathway](#)

- [General surgery referral form](#)

[More information.](#)

FIB-4 webinar links

A recording of the Calgary Zone's latest webinar can now be [watched online](#). The virtual event, which took place on Monday, February 26, was viewed live by more than 300 physicians, staff and team members.

The next webinar in the series, which will focus on obesity, medical assistance in dying and treatment-resistant depression, is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 22, at 6 p.m.

[Register.](#)

Quick links

Virtual care standards of practice workshop

On Thursday, April 18, from 7–8 p.m., the Alberta College of Family Physicians is hosting a PPIP-2 (Physician Practice Improvement Program) eligible workshop on *Looking at the Virtual Care College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta Standards of Practice*. [Register.](#)

Billing rejections

On Wednesday, April 17, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a webinar on *Billing Rejections*. It is open to all PCN physicians. [Register.](#)

Long-term care and depression

On Wednesday, March 27, from 12:05–12:50 p.m., AHS is hosting a lunch and learn on detecting and managing depression and depressive symptoms for those living in long-term care, including those with dementia. [Register.](#)

Practice facilitator core training

The AMA is offering self-directed training for those who want to learn about quality improvement or need a refresher. [More information.](#)

STARS rural trauma course

On Wednesday, April 17, physicians are invited to a full-day course on up-to-date concepts in trauma care, specifically directed at those practicing in rural areas. [More information.](#) Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) bursaries may be available for [eligible candidates](#).

Rural provider attraction and retention conference

From Tuesday, October 8 to Thursday, October 10, the biannual RhPAP provincial conference on rural community health provider attraction and retention will be held in Wainwright. [More information.](#)