

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Recording: Calgary Zone webinar

A recording of the Calgary Zone's latest webinar can now be [watched online](#).

The virtual event, which took place on Monday, March 13, was viewed live by more than 350 physicians, staff and team members. It featured the following:

- Alcohol use disorder pathway, with Dr. Niki Panich ([skip to 5:13](#))
- Orthopaedic access in the Calgary Zone, with Dr. Jason Werle ([skip to 33:47](#))
- Opioids, with Dr. Van Nguyen and Dr. Christine Luelo ([skip to 1:18.10](#))

A [physician Q&A](#) and [slides](#) are also available.

The next webinar is scheduled for Monday, May 15, and will feature a discussion about a new Access Mental Health database for family physicians and teams. [Register](#).

Glucose tolerance, gestational testing

Expedited appointment booking is available for patients in the Calgary area who need glucose tolerance or gestational testing.

Significant wait times are being reported via the Q.Me system. As an alternative, patients can call the DynaLIFE customer care centre at 1-780-702-4486 or 1-877-702-4486 to book an expedited appointment. [More information](#).

An [ordering guide](#) is also available for physicians interested in using DynaLIFE's new online supply ordering portal. All medical supplies for in-clinic collections will be ordered through the portal and delivered directly to clinics. [More information](#). Login credentials were sent by mail. If you or your clinic have not received a login, please email supply.order@dynalife.ca.

- Booking a patient for time-sensitive appointments: Call 1-877-702-4486 and press #7
- The DynaLIFE [physician hub](#) details changes for community providers
- Physicians/clinics that need more information about a patient's test order can call 1-800-661-9876 and press #2 for Calgary Zone

Physicians caring for physicians

The Alberta Medical Association's Physician for Physician (P4P) program is looking for family doctors interested in taking on fellow physicians as patients.

The service, offered through the Physician and Family Support Program, maintains a confidential network of physicians willing to accept colleagues as patients in their practice.

Challenges related to access to primary care are being experienced throughout Alberta and many physicians are currently without care for themselves or their family members. The P4P service is designed to be used by physicians in all career stages.

[More information.](#)

COVID-19 testing, isolation changes

Rapid antigen tests will be the recommended COVID-19 test for most patients and healthcare workers as part of changes to testing and isolation announced by Alberta Health.

Assessment centres that currently offer molecular testing are due to close on Friday, March 31 as part of the changes. Molecular testing will only be available for high-risk patients who have negative rapid antigen test results and need to rule out COVID-19 (during pregnancy, for example). In these cases, swabs can be collected in primary care and [submitted to the lab](#). Molecular testing will continue to be available via acute care and emergency medical services, as appropriate.

Effective Saturday, April 1, the previously recommended five-day isolation period for those with symptoms or a positive test will also no longer be required in public settings. Symptomatic Albertans or those with a positive test should stay home until symptoms improve and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without medication. Masking is advised for a total of 10 days from the onset of symptoms when indoors. Resources for physicians and clinics include:

- Order rapid antigen [tests here](#)
- [Guidance for community providers](#)
- [Guidance summary](#)

Bivalent boosters: Additional bivalent booster doses are recommended for Albertans at higher risk of severe outcomes. Eligible Albertans can start booking effective Monday, April 3. [More information.](#)

Privacy impact assessment support

An Alberta Medical Association program that supports doctors and clinics to develop and complete privacy impact assessments (PIAs) at reduced rates is being extended until the end of September.

Discounted rates of \$249 (minor PIA updates) and \$499 (major) were due to end on Friday, March 31 but have now been extended a further six months. Privacy consultants are available to support clinics that have submitted a Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR) confirmation of participation and have been informed they need to update their PIA. Current list of providers is [available here](#). A revised list will be published on the AMA PIA [tools and resources page](#) shortly.

Reminder: Spine referrals and patient fees

Some spine referrals processed through the new centralized referral system are being directed to a clinic that requires patients to pay for an initial assessment.

The Caleo Health clinic uses therapists including chiropractors and physiotherapists to create management plans for patients, which often result in them not seeing a surgeon. Patients have the option of either paying the fee or facing a wait to see a surgeon.

All adult referrals for urology and non-urgent adult referrals for orthopaedics and spine – excluding oncological orthopaedics – should continue to be faxed to 1-833-627-7023.

[More information](#).

Quick links

Prescription webinar

On Tuesday, March 28, from 7–8 p.m., Dr. Katy Anderson will discuss using the e-prescription service PrescribeIT in your clinic. [Register](#).

Pediatric rehab advice line

AHS has launched a new Pediatric Rehabilitation Advice Line for parents, guardians and caregivers. It offers advice related to developmental milestones and is integrated with Health Link's Rehabilitation Advice Line. [More details](#).

Reminder: Centre for child and adolescent mental health

A new centre for child and adolescent mental has opened in Calgary. *The Summit: Marian & Jim Sinneave Centre for Youth Resilience*, at 1015 17 Street NW, offers mental health services for young people up to the age of 18. [More information](#).