

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



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. Topics covered include restarting medications, fractures and identifying and treating underlying risks.

[Download the FAQ.](#)

Thyroid nodules: An updated version of the Calgary Zone's thyroid nodules pathway is now available via [Specialist Link](#). The pathway is designed to guide primary care providers through the workup and management of thyroid nodules. [Download the pathway.](#)

Patient pathways: Primary Care Alberta has built a series of patient pathways that include information about how to seek appropriate care, testing details and self-care recommendations. The pathways offer Alberta-specific information that explains what a diagnosis means, what options are available, what to expect next and how to manage their health. [More information.](#)

Alberta Disability Assistance Program

Details of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) are now available in preparation for the July launch.

In May, current AISH clients will receive letters with information specific to their file, including whether they will remain on AISH or transition to ADAP. [More information.](#)

Referrals for women's health procedure clinic

South Health Campus Women's Health Clinic is now accepting direct referrals into its procedure clinic, offering minor gynecological procedures with either oral or conscious sedation to improve access and reduce wait times. Services include PAP tests under sedation due to previous trauma, IUD insertions or removals, and hysteroscopic procedures for medically stable patients (BMI <40).

Some patients require prior counselling or specialist review. Please see the [Alberta Referral Directory](#) for the referral form and exclusion criteria. Patients who do not meet criteria should be referred through gynecology pathways; providers can also request [Specialist Link](#) gynecology tele-advice.

Final thoughts, celebrating doctors

In his final column as Primary Care Alberta's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein celebrates the contributions of his colleagues in primary care ahead of World Family Doctor Day, which is on Tuesday, May 19. [Read the column](#).

Indigenous learning tools

Two new learning tools are now available on [Specialist Link](#)'s Indigenous resource hub.

- [Indigenous Cultural Safety in Practice](#) is a 50-minute video recording led by Calgary Zone Indigenous liaisons Beth Finn and Veronica Big Plume that explores what cultural safety means, why it matters and how it shows up in our everyday interactions with patients.
- [Navigating non-Insured Health Benefits](#) for Indigenous patients is a recording of a short, practical webinar that explains common challenges patients face when accessing coverage. Part of the Calgary Zone's Indigenous learning series, it offers tips on how healthcare staff can better support navigation and reduce barriers to care.

Visit the [Indigenous resource hub](#).

Patient letters in screening mammography reports

The Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program, in collaboration with the Alberta Society of Radiologists, has announced an expansion of patient-facing result letters integrated directly into screening mammogram radiology reports.

As part of a pilot project in Edmonton, patients visiting select radiology clinic locations received a summary of their screening mammogram results, provided alongside the full clinical report in their [MyHealth Alberta Account](#) (MyChart). This initiative is now expanding to more radiology clinics across the province. Physicians will also see the summary when they review results.

Health Link 811 chat, callback

Patients can now access new non-urgent health information tools via Health Link 811.

Health Information Chat is available Monday to Friday from 8 a.m.–4:15 p.m. Patients can chat in real time with a health information nurse about a range of topics, including immunizations, healthcare insurance coverage or finding a family doctor. Nurse Callback is also available to patients who want to talk to a registered nurse and don't want to stay on hold. Callers will receive a callback when it's their turn in the queue.

To access the new tools, open the new Contact Health Link widget at primarycare.alberta.ca.

PCOS name change

Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) has been renamed polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS) to better reflect the condition's full impact on the body. The change follows more than a decade of discussion among researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates.

[Review the provincial pathway.](#)

Measles exposure

A measles exposure has been reported at the Claresholm General Hospital emergency department. The exposure time period was on Wednesday, May 6 from 1:30–8:15 p.m. [More information.](#)

Lab bulletins

Lab tests for specimens collected in diagnostic imaging

To improve access to and accuracy of image-guided interventional procedures, AHS Diagnostic Imaging has partnered with Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) to support non-electronic orders requiring specimen collection in diagnostic imaging. All such requests must include the appropriate APL requisition(s). Requests without required APL forms will not be scheduled and will be returned with guidance on locating forms and contact information for the APL Help Line.

Anti-Cardiolipin IgG Antibody results: There is a current delay and change in test reporting for some Anti-Cardiolipin IgG Antibody results. [Read the memo.](#)

Quick links

PCN Pain Rounds

On Wednesday, May 27, from 5:30–7 p.m., the latest webinar in the PCN Pain Rounds series focuses on *Improving Pain Care for Indigenous People*. [Register](#).

Virtual Care Standards of Practice

On Monday, June 1 from 6–7:30 p.m., join a 90-minute interactive session that explores the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta's Virtual Care Standards of Practice and assists in completion of an action plan requirement for the Standard of Practice Quality Improvement Physician Practice Improvement Program activity. [Register](#).

Clinical reasoning course

On Wednesday, May 27, starting at 6 p.m., the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine is hosting a webinar on clinical reasoning. [More information](#).