



## More doctors, NPs taking patients

The availability of primary care providers hit a four-year high in Alberta this week, with 508 family doctors and nurse practitioners (NPs) listed as taking patients on the Alberta Find a Doctor website and the Calgary area showing the biggest growth.

After several years of declining numbers of physicians accepting new patients, 2024-25 statistics show a marked increase in all five health zones, with the Calgary area going from 47 physicians and NPs taking patients in March 2024 to 251 a year later – an increase of over 400 per cent. As of Thursday, May 15, that number had further increased to 284, with 15 listed as accepting patients in the south zone, 45 in central, 99 in Edmonton and 65 in the north.

Alberta Find a Doctor, a free online service available at [albertafindadoctor.ca](https://albertafindadoctor.ca), was launched in 2019 to make it quicker and easier for Albertans to find a family physician, NP or clinic. It is a partnership between Primary Care Networks and Alberta Health. Boosted by an increase in the number of family doctors and NPs listed on the website and taking patients, the website attracted more than 1.2 million visits between April 2024 and March 2025. For more information, please see the [By the Numbers](#) report.

**Hear here:** Listen to a [CBC Eyeopener discussion](#) about access and attachment, featuring Dr. Christine Luelo.

---

## AI scribe information

Canada Health Infoway is funding up to 10,000 one-year AI Scribe licenses for eligible primary care clinicians to help streamline documentation and reduce administrative burden.

Providers can sign up to be added to a list of interested clinicians. [More information](#). As part of the initiative, a list of approved vendors has been selected. Some of those vendors are also collecting lists of interested clinicians. [More information](#).

---

## Dr. Spady takes on ACMO role

The Calgary Zone's Dr. Mike Spady has been appointed Associate Chief Medical Officer (ACMO) for Primary Care Alberta.

Dr. Spady, Associate Zone Medical Director for AHS Calgary Zone and Medical Leader, Community Health, Primary Care Alberta, has served as the Co-Chair of the Calgary Zone PCN Committee since its inception in 2015-16. Dr. Spady and Dr. Nadia Salvaterra, from the Edmonton Zone, have been appointed as ACMOs and will work alongside former Calgary Zone PCN Physician Lead Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein, Primary Care Alberta's Chief Medical Officer.

---

## Measles poster, hotline

A measles poster is now available for clinics and providers who want to remind patients how to check their immunization records. [Download it here](#).

A measles hotline was also launched earlier this month as the number of cases in Alberta continues to rise. The Health Link service, available at 1-844-944-3434, supports patients to find their health records, book immunization appointments and get health advice if they are experiencing symptoms or feeling unwell. As of Thursday, May 15, there were just over 400 confirmed measles cases in Alberta, including 269 in south Zone and 11 in the Calgary area.

A reminder that clinics and providers are asked to flag all suspected, probable and confirmed cases of measles by calling 1-844-343-0971. Providers can still reach out to the Calgary Zone MoH with questions or concerns, at 403-264-5615. A full list of recent exposure locations and dates can be [found here](#). Other resources include:

- Primary care [summary guide](#)
- [Provincial measles pathway](#)
- [Measles specimen collection pathway](#)
- [Measles video in low German](#)

---

## Reminder: Hematology advice

Additional resources are available for physicians seeking hematology advice, which is the most in-demand telephone advice service offered through Specialist Link.

The tele-advice line received more than 2,000 calls in 2024-25, over 200 more than the next most popular service and about 10 per cent of the total call volume for Specialist Link. The hematology FAQ is a great resource for physicians who want quick answers to frequently asked questions. [Download it here](#). To help manage call volume, providers are reminded that there is a separate tele-advice service for any enquiries related to thrombosis.

Clinical care pathways are another resource available to providers, including the [iron deficiency anemia pathway](#).

**Updated chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) pathway:** A newly revised [COPD pathway](#) is now available on Specialist Link. It considers updated evidence and recommendations for managing COPD.

---

## Quick links

### PPIP webinars

On Wednesday, May 21, the AMA's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT) is offering the next webinar in a weekly series on Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) activities. The May 21 session is on privacy particulars and best practices. [More information](#).

### PCN Pain Rounds: Hypermobility Syndromes and Chronic Pain

On Thursday, May 29, from 5:30–7 p.m., the latest PCN Pain Rounds webinar will focus on diagnosing benign hypermobility and distinguishing it from Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. [Register](#).

### Optometry webinar

On Friday, May 30, from noon–1 p.m., a webinar will be held to offer clinicians a practical overview of optometric scope of practice, optometry services in Alberta, and recommended strategies for collaborating with optometrists. [More information](#).

### Schistosoma, Strongyloides serology

Effective Monday, May 19, Schistosoma and Strongyloides serology must be ordered via Connect Care or by using the Alberta Precision Laboratories serology and molecular testing requisition form. [Download it here](#). Please include relevant travel history and rationale. [More information](#).

### Reminder: Changes to urine cytology

A reminder that community urine cytology requests will be cancelled unless ordered or recommended by a urologist. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

### Family Docs Rock!

The Alberta College of Family Physicians is celebrating the contributions of family doctors and primary care teams as part of World Family Doctor Day, which takes place on Monday, May 19. [More information](#).

### Alberta Rural Health Week

Join the Rural Health Professionals Action Plan (RhPAP) in recognizing the contributions of rural healthcare providers and celebrating the strength of our rural communities. [More information](#).

---

## Surveys, engagement opportunities, postings

### Specialist Link physician lead

The Calgary Zone is seeking a physician lead for the Specialist Link program. The role is for approximately 10 hours per month. [More details](#).

### Survey: Sudden sensorineural hearing loss

Physicians are needed to complete a survey that will help inform the development and validation of a primary care-centered clinical pathway for the management of sudden sensorineural hearing loss. [More information](#).

### Student shadowing

Physician volunteers are being sought for this year's student shadowing program, a joint initiative of the Alberta College of Family Physicians and the AMA. Placement windows are from June 15-28 and/or August 10-23. [More information](#).

### Heart health study

A new study is offering Albertans aged 18 and older to learn about their cardiovascular health and potential interventions. PRxOACT, or Implementation of Pharmacist Case Finding and Intervention for Vascular Prevention" is a research study lasting six months. Interested patients can find a local [participating pharmacy here](#) and speak with a pharmacist to sign up or email [PRxOACT@ualberta.ca](mailto:PRxOACT@ualberta.ca).

### CPSA Standards of Practice consultation

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) is accepting feedback on three Standards of Practice currently out for consultation – Human Health Research, Re-entering Medical Practice or Changing Scope of Practice, and Relationships with Industry. [More information](#).

### Project POTS study

A University of Toronto study is seeking to explore how primary care physicians approach the diagnosis and management of Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). There is a \$30 honorarium offered for a 15-minute interview. For more information, please email [projectpots.trp.lmp@utoronto.ca](mailto:projectpots.trp.lmp@utoronto.ca).