

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Headache and migraine, neurology access pathways

Updated headache and migraine and neurology access pathways are now available on Specialist Link.

The Calgary Zone [headache and migraine pathway](#), originally created in 2018, has been updated to reflect the latest evidence, treatment and referral options, including [family practice clinics](#) in the local area. It focuses on migraine management in non-pregnant adults and details the many possible steps physicians and teams can take when managing migraines.

The [neurology access pathway](#) has also been updated to reflect recent referral options and also links to the updated headache and migraine pathway.

Service interruption: Endocrine surgery tele-advice will be closed from Tuesday, May 21 to Wednesday May 22. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Town hall: Regional primary health care networks

Alberta Health hosted a town hall on the transition of Primary Care Networks to regional networks earlier this week. Highlights from the event included the following:

- Regional networks, a key initiative of the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative, will be positioned to allocate resources that enable equity of access and improved outcomes for both attached and unattached patients.
- Regional networks will build on the strengths of PCNs and address gaps, be responsible for meeting the primary health care needs of the population within a defined geographic region and support primary care providers in the delivery of care and enable more integrated care across regions.
- It is not yet known how many regional networks there will be or the areas they will serve. Alberta Health is embarking on a consultation process to determine how they will be designed and implemented.
- Engagement/consultation with family physicians, which could include a survey, is planned for the fall. PCN leadership will also be asked to meet with Alberta Health.
- The design of regional networks is planned for August–October. Pilot and transition planning will take place between November 2024 and February 2025.
- Not all regional networks will be launched at the same time. PCNs will continue their existing work in the meantime. Zone structures will continue.

The following resources are available for those interested in finding out more about regional networks and the “evolution” of PCNs: [Slides](#) | [FAQ](#)

Fibromyalgia webinar

The next webinar in the Calgary Zone’s popular series will take a closer look at how fibromyalgia can be managed in the medical home.

On Monday, June 24, from 6–8 p.m., co-hosts Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo return with a panel of experts to talk about fibromyalgia and other topics.

[Register](#).

Crucial conversations: A recording of the April Calgary Zone webinar, which focused on obesity and death and dying, can now be [watched online](#).

Measles precautions

A new lab memo has been issued to remind physicians and clinic staff about measles precautions.

The bulletin calls on clinics to ensure staff are fully vaccinated and familiar with the clinical presentation of measles. It also references how to collect a [nasopharyngeal swab](#) and ensuring there are sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment, especially N95 respirators.

Before sending a suspect measles patient to have their blood collected, it is recommended that clinic staff contact the appointment booking line at 1-877-702-4486.

[Read the lab memo](#).

Reminder: Gynecology to join FAST June 10

Gynecology will be the latest specialty added to the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) initiative on Monday, June 10.

General surgery, orthopedic surgery, urology and vascular surgery are already part of the program. [More information](#).

Quick links

World Family Doctor Day, National Physicians Day

PCNs and the Calgary Zone will be among many individuals and organizations recognizing the value and importance of family doctors in May. Sunday, May 19 is World Family Doctor Day and the Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP) is celebrating with its annual *Family Docs Rock!* Campaign. [Get involved](#). National Physicians Day was Wednesday, May 1.

Choosing Wisely: Climate conscious recommendations

Choosing Wisely Canada has collaborated with more than 20 specialties to create over 40 climate-conscious recommendations for the health-care industry. The recommendations aim to mobilize clinicians to stop or reduce low-value practices that harm the environment, without compromising patient care. [Read the recommendations](#).

Webinar on the future of primary care

On Tuesday, May 21, from 10–11 a.m., Deloitte Healthcare and Life Science will host a webinar on current and future-oriented solutions to improving access to primary care. The webinar is titled *Future of Primary Care: The Burning Platform and Need for Change*. [Register](#).

Chat GPT webinar

On Thursday, May 23, at 7 p.m., the Alberta College of Family Physicians will host a 90-minute webinar on *Chat GPT: General Practice Technology*. [Register](#).

Insomnia and cardiometabolic health

On Thursday, May 30, from 6–8:30 p.m., Mosaic PCN is hosting a hybrid in-person/virtual education event titled *The Cardiovascular and the Metabolic: Impact of Insomnia*. The in-person portion will take place at the Marriott Calgary Airport, 2008 Airport Road NE. It is open to all PCN members and health team staff. [In-person registration](#). [Online link](#).

Physician Learning Plan summit

On Tuesday, June 11, the Physician Learning Plan summit will explore how to leverage a supportive team-based culture using clinical information to drive improvement. [More information](#).