

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Updated thyroid nodules pathway

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 discovered on physical examination or imaging. Up to 95 per cent of thyroid nodules are benign, and many can be managed in primary care without specialist referral.

The original pathway was developed in 2018 and was updated to reflect recent changes in thyroid nodule risk stratification. The revised pathway includes information about assessment, investigation and referrals. [Download the pathway](#).

Menopause pathway: The [provincial menopause and perimenopause pathway](#) has been added to [Specialist Link](#) to support the care and management of patients experiencing menopause or perimenopause related symptoms. The pathway supports both hormonal and non-hormonal treatment approaches and outlines when specialist referral is appropriate.

Cryptosporidium outbreak

Physicians and clinics are being asked to be wary of patients presenting with diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting and fever following a Cryptosporidium outbreak at Butterfield Acres, a petting zoo.

The Calgary Zone Medical Officers of Health and AHS Environmental Public Health say anyone who visited this facility after April 9 may have been exposed, particularly if they had contact with the animals or their enclosures. For testing, please ask the patient to submit a stool sample for the stool parasite screen using Associated Precision Laboratories' [microbiology requisition](#).

[Read the memo](#).

PCPCM milestone

Almost half of eligible physicians have enrolled in the Primary Care Physician Compensation Model as it celebrates the first anniversary of the launch of the program.

A total of 46 per cent have opted for the compensation model for family physicians and rural generalists who deliver comprehensive, life-long care to a defined panel of patients. [More information](#).

National physicians' day: Friday, May 1 is National Physicians' Day. Look out for PCN [social media posts](#) recognizing the significant contributions of physicians working throughout the healthcare system.

CMO column: In his latest column, Primary Care Alberta's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein discusses the Indigenous Wellness Core and the role it plays in informing clinical practice, training and leadership across the organization. [Read the column](#).

Physicians sought for committee: The Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services is recruiting two physicians to serve on the Out-of-Country Health Services Committee. This committee reviews and makes funding decisions on requests for insured health services received by Albertans outside Canada. [More information](#).

Breast cancer screening

Starting next year, women aged 40-44 will no longer require a referral from a healthcare provider for access to screening mammograms in Alberta.

Currently, women aged 45-74 can self-refer to a radiology clinic of their choice for regular screening mammograms. Women aged 40-44 are also eligible following an initial, one-time referral from their healthcare provider. The change, which comes into effect on April 1, 2027, eliminates the one-time referral for women aged 40-44. [More information](#).

Alberta Healthy Living Program exercise program

Respiratory therapists and occupational therapists were recently incorporated directly into Alberta Healthy Living Program ([AHLP](#)) exercise classes.

The change was made to ensure safe, effective, and adaptable exercise for a broad range of individuals and conditions [referred](#) to AHLP.

Lab bulletins

Stat list

A single, standardized provincial stat test list will be used at all acute care facilities. [Memo](#).

Reporting changes for C-reactive protein

Reporting changes will be implemented for high-sensitivity C-reactive protein. [Memo](#).

Transfusion medicine

New and revised transfusion medicine resources are available at ahs.ca/labtransfusion. These resources provide information to support safe and appropriate transfusion practices. [Memo](#).

Chimerism workflow

Effective Monday, May 4, all samples received for chimerism analysis will utilize an updated analysis workflow. This may result in small differences in percentage donor for some patients, particularly those with fewer informative alleles. [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](#).

PPIP Q&A

On Wednesday, May 6, from 6–7 p.m., get support and advice on how to complete the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP). [Register](#).

Privacy webinar

On Monday, May 11, from 6–7:30 p.m., find out how the introduction of artificial intelligence use in health care creates potential privacy, security and patient safety risks. [Register](#).

Choosing Wisely Canada national meeting

On Monday, May 25 and Tuesday, May 26, Choosing Wisely Canada's national meeting will be held in Toronto. Time is running out to register, with sessions filling up fast. [More information](#).

Alberta Primary Care Nurses Association AGM

On Thursday, May 7, from 7–9 p.m., the Alberta Primary Care Nurses Association will hold its annual general meeting virtually and in-person in Edmonton. [More details](#).

Transitions in Care Talk recording

A recording of a home-to-hospital-to-home webinar on *Supporting Medically Complex Patients – Whose Patient is it Anyway?* – is now available to [watch online](#).

Changes to Adult Guardian and Trusteeship Act

The Government of Alberta has made updates to the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* and associated regulations. [More information](#).

Rural education and advanced learning grants

Allied health professionals and nurses can apply to have continuing education costs covered

through the Rural Education and Advanced Learning program, offered by the Rural Health Professions Action Plan. The next application cycle is May 6 through June 17. [More information.](#)

Reminder: MSF360 program

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) is bringing back the MCC 360 program under a new name – MSF360. MSF360 offers physicians an opportunity to evaluate their practice through self-assessment while reflecting on anonymized feedback gathered from patients, colleagues and co-workers. It meets the requirements for PPIP. Please contact ppip@cpsa.ab.ca to ensure no fee is charged. [More information.](#)