

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Primary Care
Networks
CALGARY AND AREA

Specialist Link passes milestone

Specialist Link, the popular service launched in 2014 to offer Calgary area physicians and nurse practitioners real-time advice, has celebrated facilitating its 150,000th call.

Telephone advice is the core service offered via specialistlink.ca, with 49 specialty options available to primary care providers. A total of 19,559 calls were placed between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026, pushing the total number of calls past the 150,000 milestone to 162,839. Endocrinology, infectious disease and hematology are the top three most popular services.

Visits to the website, views and user numbers all increased last year, while pathway downloads also increased six per cent to an annual total of 24,297. Find out more about Specialist Link's performance in 2025-26 in the annual [By The Numbers](#) report.

Coming soon: The [Specialist Link](#) website will be updated in June to make it quicker and easier to access specialties, tele-advice services and pathways. The refresh includes a powerful new search tool that allows family physicians, nurse practitioners and other providers to look for services by specialties.

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. [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](#).

Indigenous events, tools

Several events are being held both virtually and in-person in the Calgary area and throughout the province as part of National Indigenous History Month. Check out a [list of local events](#).

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 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. Visit the [Indigenous resource hub](#).

Measles exposure

Another measles alert has been issued in the Calgary area. The latest notification was for a patient who attended Foothills Medical Centre's emergency department on Thursday, May 21. [More information](#).

Quick links

Alberta Rural Health Week

The Rural Health Professions Action Plan is recognizing health professionals and volunteers committed to enhancing the wellbeing of rural residents as part of Alberta Rural Health Week. [More information](#).

PPIP webinar

On Thursday, June 11, from 6–7:30 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a webinar that explores the relationship between burnout and medical culture. The event is part of the AMA's Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) series. [More information](#).

Geriatric update

On Saturday, June 6, starting at 7:45 a.m., a hybrid one-day course titled *Annual Update in Geriatric Medicine* will take place. The in-person portion is in Edmonton. [More information](#).

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 PPIP activity. [Register](#).

Name change for emergency health

Emergency Health Services Alberta is now known as ALTA Paramedic Health. The organization is Alberta's publicly funded provider of emergency health services (EHS) across the province. [More information](#).

Hantavirus risk remains low

The risk of the hantavirus (Andes virus) in Alberta remains very low. [More information](#).

AlbertaQuits website

The AlbertaQuits website (albertaquits.ca) has been updated to provide more resources for tobacco and vaping cessation. The site supports patients looking for tips and tools to help them quit smoking or vaping.