

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Lab delays, Connect Care launch

Lab services could be subject to delays in the coming days due to this weekend's transition to Connect Care.

Effective Saturday, May 6, all requisitions will need to include a [Connect Care ID](#) to ensure accurate and prompt reporting of results. Please [download this fact sheet](#) for more information.

Please let AHS know if contact or eDelivery [information changes](#) or providers leave or join the clinic. Physicians working at more than one clinic may find that some documents only go to the default location. For support, call the provincial service desk at 1-877-311-4300 (select #1 for clinical applications, #1 for Connect Care; have your PraeID available). [More information.](#)

Please note that downtime procedures will be in effect from 11:30 p.m., on Friday, May 5 until 5 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, meaning collections for inpatient lab testing will only be available for stat or timed collections.

Mental health support survey

The challenge of caring for patients' mental health needs is the focus of a new [Calgary Zone primary care survey](#). The Zone is keen to hear from physicians and nurse practitioners who are willing to share their perspectives on the resources available to both clinicians and patients.



The results will help inform the development of mental health programs and services in the Calgary Zone. The survey takes about 15 minutes and will be open until Wednesday, May 31. A \$50 grant-funded honorarium is available upon completion. [Take the survey.](#)

MAPS review launched

The final recommendations from the [Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System](#) (MAPS) initiative will be subject to an Alberta Health review prior to being made public.

Health Minister Jason Copping confirmed last week that the MAPS panels, established to identify immediate and long-term improvements to Alberta's primary health care system, had

submitted their final reports. A review and cost analysis will now be undertaken. “Officials will also develop a comprehensive implementation strategy with timelines for approval by the government for each recommendation the government accepts,” he said.

Initial recommendations regarding early opportunities for investment were [released in February](#). A total of \$40 million, over two years, was set aside to support Primary Care Networks under the AMA agreement. Only the first \$20 million has been allocated to date.

Prior to the 2023 Alberta general election being called, the government committed \$125 million to implementing recommendations from MAPS. Direct physician payments are tied to the AMA agreement and were out of scope for MAPS.

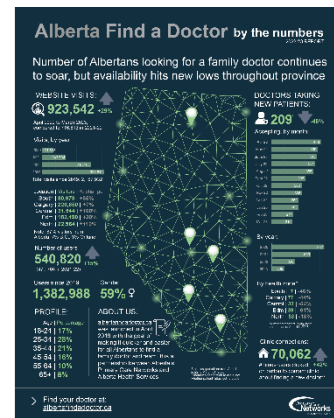
The final reports from the Strategic Advisory Panel and Indigenous Panel, which included PCN representation, identified long-term improvements to strengthen Alberta’s primary health care system. [More information](#).

Lack of family doctors highlighted in report

The challenges faced by Albertans looking for a family doctor are reflected in a [new infographic](#) that shows a huge increase in traffic to the Alberta Find a Doctor website and a dramatic drop in the number of physicians taking patients.

The report shows there were more than 920,000 visits to the website from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, but the number of doctors accepting patients across Alberta dropped 46% to 209. In the Calgary area there was a 44% drop during the same period and as of Tuesday, May 2, there were just 80 physicians in the Calgary area accepting patients. [Download the infographic](#).

Supporting Albertans to access primary care is also the focus of a [2023-26 draft plan](#) for the website, which shares a vision for an integrated, independently funded access tool that connects patients with the information and resources they need. [Read the plan](#).



Calgary Zone webinar: Bring your team!

Physicians, nurse practitioners, health team and clinic staff are invited to tune in to a Calgary Zone webinar on the Access Mental Health Resource Database, which is set to be made available to clinics via Specialist Link.

Scheduled for Monday, May 15, from 6–8 p.m., the webinar will be hosted by Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo. The database will allow providers and staff to have direct access to a database of Calgary and area mental health service providers. [Register](#).

CII/CPAR acceleration grant

[Grant funding](#) is available to family physicians interested in the Community Information Integration and Central Patient Attachment Registry, also known as CII/CPAR.

The initiative enables physicians and teams to share patient information to Alberta Netcare directly from their EMR. New and existing participating doctors are eligible to receive a one-time payment of \$1,000 for their first data submission. A second payment (the amount varies) is issued after at least three months of data is submitted. The payments are available on a first-come, first-served basis as part of the \$12 million grant included in the [AMA agreement](#).

Physicians must be on a fully conformed EMR. [More information](#). You can submit an [expression of interest](#) to join CPAR.

Quick links

World Family Doctor Day

Friday, May 19, is World Family Doctor Day. The Alberta College of Family Physicians has put together a web page full of resources related to celebrating physicians. [More information](#).

Pain rounds: Acceptance and commitment therapy

On Wednesday, May 17, from 5:30–6:45 p.m., the next pain rounds webinar will feature a presentation on *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Chronic Pain and Substance Use Disorders*. [Register](#).

Trauma informed care event

On Thursday, June 8, from 5:30–7:45 p.m., a 90-minute in-person session on Trauma Informed Care will be held at the Hotel Blackfoot. Participants will learn the foundational principles of trauma informed care and tools to provider a safer environment for staff and patients. Space is limited. [Register](#).

Specialist physician of the year

The Department of Family Medicine is seeking nominations for the Specialist Physician of the Year award. The award is for specialists who have demonstrated exemplary collaboration with primary care. [More information](#). Please note: The Family Physician of the Year award is [nominated by patients](#).

Billing recording

A recording is available of an AMA billing session hosted by Calgary West Central PCN. [Watch the recording](#).