



Netcare modernization

Changes to the *Health Information Act* that came into effect in October have impacted the Alberta Netcare Portal. Netcare information can be used for patient care, service eligibility, quality improvement, investigations, and certain education and research purposes.

Those applying as a new [custodian](#) must demonstrate privacy and ethical standards through the regulatory college, implement organizational safeguards, complete a Privacy Impact Assessment and comply with technical and security standards.

There will be a new *Access to Alberta Netcare Declaration*, which can be [reviewed here](#). Custodians must accept the declaration the first time they log in (after activation on December 1) and in future if substantial changes are made to the declaration. Acceptance is mandatory to access the portal. Acceptances will be logged for accountability.

Support is available via 1-855-643-8649 (eligibility, technical, access issues). The HIA help desk can be reached at hiahelpdesk@gov.ab.ca or by calling 780-427-8089 (compliance, regulatory questions). [More information](#).

Lab delays resolved

The technical issue that caused delays in the processing of some lab requisitions in Connect Care has now been resolved. Operations have returned to normal.

RPP test reminder: The only paper requisition accepted by APL for COVID-19, influenza and Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) requests is [this requisition](#). [Read the bulletin](#).

Surgeons join FAST

Eleven surgeons from the Calgary area have joined the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program and are now accepting referrals.

A list of the surgeons is included in the last FAST newsletter, which is [available here](#).

HPV screening

Effective Wednesday, November 5, cervical cancer screening of eligible individuals aged 50-69 will transition to primary high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) testing. Please note: It is the same speculum exam.

The transition aims to support earlier detection, longer screening intervals and improved access through self-sampling. Planning for provincial access to HPV primary screening for those aged 25-49 is ongoing. For now, those patients will continue to be screened using Pap tests.

The sample collection and lab submission process for HPV primary screening will remain unchanged. However, referral decisions will now be based on HPV genotype and cervical cytology results. Primary care providers will continue to receive lab results and follow-up letters for patients who identify them as their provider.

Please note: Self-sampling, a vaginal swab that patients can do on themselves to detect high risk HPV, is not yet available outside of a pilot. [More information](#).

Reminder: Immunization program

Phase two of Alberta's fall immunization includes influenza vaccination for Albertans aged five and older available at community pharmacies. Appointments for children aged six months-four years old will be available at public health clinics.

A three-strain injectable standard dose influenza vaccine is available free of charge to Albertans six months and older. An adjuvanted influenza vaccine may be offered to individuals 65 years of age and older, subject to local availability. [More information](#). Phase one of the program offered the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to eligible Albertans. [Eligibility information](#).

Reminder: Indigenous resource hub

An [Indigenous resource hub](#) is now available on Specialist Link to support primary care providers to deliver culturally safe, holistic and community-driven care.

Developed by the Calgary Zone Truth and Reconciliation working group, the hub features listings for Indigenous health centres, substance use recovery and 2SLGBTQI+ supports.

Quick links

Caregiver-centred care

An additional 10 physician participants are needed for an evidence-based online program that aims to help physicians, fellows and trainees better recognize, support, and partner with family caregivers in clinical practice. [More information](#).

Drop-in sessions for PPIP answers

The Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (AMA-ACTT) is hosting 60-minute drop-in sessions on Physician Practice Improvement Program questions. Sessions start at 6 p.m. on Monday, [November 24](#) or Monday, [December 8](#).

Diabetic eye health webinar

On Tuesday, November 18 from noon–1 p.m., the Alberta Association of Optometrists is hosting a webinar on diabetes-related eye health. [More information](#).

Transitions in Care Talk

On Wednesday, November 26, starting at noon, AMA-ACTT and Primary Care Alberta will host a webinar on understanding the complexity of transition planning and supporting the safe follow-up care for individuals experiencing homelessness. [Register](#).

Group medical visits

On Thursday, November 27 from 7:30–8:30 a.m., and on Tuesday, December 2 from 6–7 p.m., AMA-ACTT is hosting a team-based care learning webinar on *Leveraging Group Medical Visits to Enhance Care Delivery: A Case Study of the 'Own Your Bones' Program*. [Register](#).

Billing webinar

On Wednesday, November 26, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a webinar on fee-for-service billing. It is open to all PCN physicians in the Calgary Zone. [Register](#).

Choosing Wisely: Urine tests drive antibiotic overuse

On Tuesday, November 18, at 11 a.m., Choosing Wisely Talks explores how urine tests can drive antibiotic overuse. [Register](#).

Rural bursaries for training

The Rural Health Professions Action Plan is offering bursaries to help rural providers attend the following three training opportunities this winter: Endoscopy Skills Day, Emergency Medicine for Rural Hospitals and Trauma Nursing Core Course. [More information](#).

Building teams

On Tuesday, November 25, at 6 p.m., AMA-ACTT is hosting a workshop that explores the building blocks of communication optimization in healthcare team settings. [Register](#).

PCN Pain Rounds

On Wednesday, November 26, from 5:30–7 p.m., the next webinar in the PCN Pain Rounds series will focus on *Harnessing the Role of Parents in our Patients to Address Intergenerational Pain*. [Register](#).

