

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Stat testing standardization

A standardized community stat process and test list is set to be implemented next week at patient service centres and hospital outpatient collection sites throughout Alberta.

Effective Monday, November 20, tests should only be ordered as stat in urgent medical situations in which same-day results are expected to directly affect patient care.

Consultation with lab medical staff is required for tests not on the provincial community stat test list. Review the [provincial community stat test list](#). Clearly indicate stat on requisitions next to the test being ordered. Patients should present at patient service centres or outpatient collection sites on the same day.

Standing order requisition is not appropriate for stat test ordering. Ensure contact information is up to date; ordering providers will be called with critical results.

[Read the memo.](#)

Syphilis webinar

On Wednesday, November 22, from 6–7 p.m., AHS is hosting a webinar on the role of primary care physicians in the syphilis outbreak response.

The webinar will cover how to assess, test, diagnose, treat and refer patients who test positive or are at risk of syphilis. [More information.](#)

Primary care announcement

The Government of Alberta is set to establish a new provincial primary care organization to coordinate primary health care services.

Governance reform was one of the recommendations in the [Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System](#) (MAPS) final reports. The new organization will focus on three objectives:

- Ensuring every Albertan is attached to a family physician or nurse practitioner

- Providing timely access to high-quality primary care services, including after-hours care
- Supporting an integrated team of health professionals to provide comprehensive primary care

[More information.](#)

Quick links

OCD and autism

On Wednesday, December 6, from noon–1 p.m., the University of Calgary is hosting an online presentation on *Detangling Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder*. [Register.](#)

Lung cancer screening

The Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program is accepting referrals for patients who need lung cancer screening. Albertans aged 50 to 74 who currently smoke or quit after many years can also self-refer by calling 1-866-727-3926. [More information.](#)

Jordan's Principle, non-insured health benefits

AHS Nutrition Services, in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada, is offering learning opportunities related to funding options for nutrition products and diets to support Indigenous patients. A session on [Jordan's Principle](#) will be held on Tuesday, December 5, from 1:30–3 p.m. [Non-Insured Health Benefits](#) will be explored on Wednesday, December 13, at the same time. [More information.](#)

Free counselling services

The University of Calgary's Centre for Wellbeing in Education is offering no-cost individual counselling for January through April 2024. Therapy is offered by graduate students in the Werklund School of Education's counselling psychology program. [More information.](#)

Teaching opportunity

The University of Calgary is looking for physicians and health team members who are interested in teaching first-year medical students about the Patient's Medical Home. Small, in-person sessions will be conducted at the Health Sciences Centre on Thursday, January 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. Contact ugfmfaculty@ucalgary.ca for more information. The deadline is Friday, December 1.