

Alberta Find a Doctor records 5 million visits

The Alberta Find a Doctor website has passed a major milestone, with the free online service recording a total of more than five million visits since 2019.

Built and run by Alberta's Primary Care Networks, it has become a trusted resource for Albertans looking for a family doctor, nurse practitioner or clinic.

Traffic to the website has risen steadily since its inception, and at the end of September 2025, a total of more than 5.2 million visits had been logged, as well as 3.5 million users. A record number of providers are listed on the website – 4,054 family physicians and 143 nurse practitioners – and as of Monday, November 24, there are 724 taking new patients, the highest total since 2021.

The website, which allows users to search for clinics and providers anywhere in Alberta, is a partnership between Primary Care Networks, Primary and Preventative Health Services and primary care providers and clinics.

Management of the website is due to be transferred to Primary Care Alberta in December 2025. PCNs will continue to update the clinic- and provider-level data on which the service is built.

More information.

InnovateHealth training

Physicians and teams are invited to take part in a free, multi-session training program that aims to equip participants with the practical skills, mindsets and strategies to navigate change within Alberta's health system.

Funded through the Government of Alberta's Primary Care Innovation Grant, InnovateHealth is offering four modules, starting in January 2026. They are open to physicians, staff and teams. The program supports the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) requirements for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

More information.

Lab routing optimization

The delivery of lab results has been enhanced so that lab routing respects the preferred address for providers who work at multiple locations and considers who (provider), where (location/address for each provider) and how (delivery method for each location/address) a lab result should be delivered.

This change resolves most duplications of lab results, and the distribution of cancelled test notifications will be standardized. Results are available in Connect Care on the patient's chart, and in Alberta Netcare. Read the FAQ.

Update: A minority of lab results for tests ordered in Connect Care may experience delayed delivery to "copy to" (cc:) recipients (providers identified in the "copy to" section of the lab order). Results delivery to authorizing providers is not impacted. Results are available in the Connect Care patient chart, Alberta Netcare and the patient portals. Questions can be directed to the Alberta Health Services Provincial Service Desk at 1-877-311-4300. More information.

Formalin-fixed specimens: To ensure the safe transport of specimens to the laboratory for testing, Alberta Precision Laboratories reminds primary care teams that formalin-fixed specimens can be classified as "exempt human specimens" and shipped under Section 1.42 of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. Read the lab bulletin.

Removal of Epic enter/edit functionality: The "Enter/Edit" (E/E) functionality in Epic software for point-of-care-testing (POCT) Pregnancy Urine Manual test result entry has been removed. This change is part of the phased approach to remove all POCT E/E functionality. Read the lab bulletin.

Reminder: 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 <u>custodian</u> 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 <u>reviewed here</u>. 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.

Quick links

ACFP Family Medicine Summit

From Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8, 2026, the Alberta College of Family Physicians is hosting the 2026 Family Medicine Summit at the Sheraton Suites Eau Claire in Calgary. The promo code PCA367 can be used by Wednesday, December 31 to receive \$100 off in-person registration (cannot be combined with any other offers and excludes learners & research participant rates). More information.

Drop-in session for PPIP answers

The Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (AMA-ACTT) is hosting a 60-minute drop-in session on Physician Practice Improvement Program questions. It starts at 6 p.m. on Monday, <u>December 8</u>.

Al In Practice

On Thursday, December 4, at 7 p.m., join AMA-ACTT for a discussion about the real-world impact of AI in health care. Register.

Child therapy services

The University of Calgary Psychology Clinic has several openings for child therapy services, offered on a sliding fee scale (including free services for eligible families). <u>More information</u>.