

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Virtual mental health codes

Amendments to virtual mental health codes have been unveiled:

- HSC 08.19CW will change from “per full 15 minutes” to “per 15 minutes or major portion thereof”
- New fee codes for virtual group and family therapy services will be introduced at the same rates as in-person equivalent codes
- A new fee code for virtual psychiatric treatment of complex patients will be introduced
- Prolonged virtual consultation and prolonged virtual repeat office visit or scheduled outpatient visit codes will be introduced for skill codes that are currently eligible for select prolonged services

Changes to the Claim Assessment System (CLASS) are underway. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Reminder: Calgary Zone webinar

A recording of the Calgary Zone’s latest [webinar](#) can now be watched online. The virtual event, which took place on Monday, October 16, featured pharmacological treatment for alcohol use disorder, joint injections and immunization. A physician [FAQ](#) and slides ([alcohol](#), [immunization](#)) are also available.

Enhanced lipid reporting

Enhanced lipid reporting is now available via a lab-based screening tool that has been added to general lab requisitions.

The tool is the Framingham Risk Score (FRS). When clinicians use the FRS on lab requisitions, they will receive an enhanced lipid report back from the lab that includes the FRS result, lipid panel and treatment guidelines. [More information.](#)

Let’s Talk Cholesterol: Let’s Talk Cholesterol, a tool developed by family physicians, specialists, and patients to support evidence-based cholesterol management, is now available online. [Check it out.](#)

Notification duplication issues

Solutions are being sought to reduce or avoid duplication of information received by physicians and teams via eNotifications and Connect Care.

Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and the AMA are exploring potential changes to tackle the issue, which involves eNotifications from Community Information Integration and Central Patient Attachment Registry (CII/CPAR) and summative notes such as discharge summaries received via Connect Care. Solutions are expected to be announced in early 2024.

Quick links

E. coli outbreak over

An E. coli outbreak that was linked to more than 350 confirmed cases has been declared over. Eleven original sites that received food from a central kitchen are all off outbreak status.

Grant program

The Canadian Medical Association's Health Care Unburdened Grant program is offering grants to implement ideas that help physicians reclaim lost time and improve patient care. The application window is open until Tuesday, December 12. [More information](#).