

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Primary Care
Networks
CALGARY AND AREA

Alcohol use disorder webinar, pathway

Tune in next week as the Calgary Zone's popular [webinar](#) series returns with a focus on the new [alcohol use disorder](#) pathway.

On Monday, October 16, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo will be joined by Dr. Monty Ghosh to discuss the pharmacological management options highlighted in the [pathway](#), which has been developed to support physicians and nurse practitioners to identify and manage [alcohol use disorder](#) in primary care.

Other webinar topics include immunization and injection therapy for musculoskeletal conditions. Note: Credits will not be available for attending this webinar.

[Register.](#)

Updated heart failure pathway

The Calgary Zone's [heart failure pathway](#) has been revised to consider updated evidence and guidelines related to caring for patients in the medical home.

That includes the following:

- Evidence to support the need for early follow-up of patients by primary care within seven- to 10-days post-discharge with heart failure symptoms or diagnosis
- Critical need to obtain and document both left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) and N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) at the time of diagnosis to stratify medications and support follow-up with specialist care
- Pharmacological treatment updates for both heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) and patients with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF)

[Download the pathway.](#)

Immunization update

Bookings have now opened for [influenza](#) and COVID-19 vaccinations as part of the 2023-24 immunization campaign.

Albertans aged six months and older are eligible for the [updated COVID-19 vaccine](#), with XBB.1.5 strain formulation. It can be administered at least three months after the last dose. It is recommended that patients wait three months after a positive COVID-19 test.

Appointments at Alberta Health Services clinics and pharmacies can be made through the [Alberta Vaccine Booking System](#).

[Immunization information](#).

Lab, DI results guide

AHS has created a [new resource](#) for clinic staff that explains how to ensure lab results, microbiology tests, pathology, and all other speciality labs and diagnostic imaging results are received.

With labs, diagnostic sites and other AHS services having moved to Connect Care, all requisitions need to include identifiers for the lab, department or authorizing provider, as well as other clinic information. [Read the guide](#).

Updated masking directive

AHS has updated its [masking policy](#) for acute care facilities to help prevent transmission of COVID-19.

The directive requires AHS staff, physicians and other health workers to mask in areas where they may come into contact with patients or are accessible to patients or support persons – provided site leaders determine it to be a risk. Wearing a mask is optional for AHS workers in areas where there is no contact with patients, or until the directive has been implemented. Protocols are outlined in the [risk assessment](#).

Masking is also optional at continuing care and addiction and mental health sites that are not part of acute care. [Read the directive](#).

Surveys, engagement opportunities

**Please note: Survey opportunities are shared quarterly via the Primary Cares newsletter*

Post-discharge follow-up feedback sought

Input is sought from primary care physicians and team members to help design a standardized post-discharge follow-up process for primary care. Disease-Inclusive Pathway for Transitions in Care (ADAPT) is a grant-funded implementation initiative for Alberta's [Home to Hospital to Home](#) Transitions Guideline. [More information](#). Alternatively, please email elvira.nurmambetova@albertahealthservices.ca.

Care planning research project

Family physicians are invited to take part in One:carepath, a provincial research project involved in care planning for patients who have advanced, decompensated or non-curative COPD, heart failure, cirrhosis, kidney disease and stage three or four solid organ cancers. Physicians who use MedAccess, PS Suite, Healthquest or Accuro and have a minimum of 10 complex patients in their panel are sought. The commitment is for up to 18 months and is remunerated with a flat rate of \$5,500. [More information](#).

Survey on human trafficking

Family physicians are invited to take part in a University of Calgary research survey that aims to assess knowledge and beliefs regarding human trafficking. The anonymous survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. [Take the survey](#).

Quick links

Sex, gender and dementia

On Tuesday, October 17, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN hosts a virtual event focused on dementia prevention, diagnosis, and treatment based on sex and gender, with tips on how to connect patients to support from community partners. [Register](#).

Wellness Connection

On Tuesday, October 17, at 5 p.m., the Canadian Medical Association (CMA)'s Wellness Connection hosts a session on career transitions. You do not need to be a CMA member to participate. [Register](#).

Reminder: Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) conference

On Saturday, November 4, the Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) hosts a conference at the University of Calgary. The conference is in person but also has a post-event access to recordings option. [More information](#).