



AI Scribe Program reopens

Effective Wednesday, October 15, registration has reopened for the Canada Health Infoway AI Scribe Program.

The program provides one-year licenses for AI-powered documentation tools to eligible primary care clinicians. It is designed to reduce documentation time and ease administrative burden.

Nine vendors have been selected to be part of the program. [More information.](#)

Immunization program latest

Effective Monday, October 20, phase two of Alberta's fall immunization program gets underway with influenza vaccination for Albertans aged five and older available at community pharmacies. Appointments for children aged six months to 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.](#)

The respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine is also available to those 60 years of age and older living in continuing care and seniors supportive living settings, as well as First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals who are 60 years of age and older. All Albertans 70 years of age and older are eligible for the RSV vaccine.

Phase one of the program kicked off earlier this month with a focus on offering the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to eligible Albertans, which includes healthcare workers. [More information.](#)

Albertans six months and older who were not eligible in phase one will have the opportunity to book appointments for both COVID-19 and influenza immunization. There is a \$100 fee to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at public health clinics. The charge may vary at pharmacies that privately purchase and offer the vaccine. [Eligibility information.](#)

Provider resources: Please see the Alberta [webpage](#) for information on seasonal immunizations or Health Canada's statement on [seasonal vaccines](#).

Lab bulletins

Alberta Precision Laboratories has issued bulletins for the following:

- **RPP tests:** Effective Tuesday, October 14, the only paper requisition accepted by APL for COVID-19, influenza and Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) requests is the [COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Viruses Requisition](#). [Read the bulletin.](#)
- **Dermatophyte test change:** Effective Tuesday, October 21, APL in Calgary will begin testing for dermatophyte fungi from skin scrapings and nail samples using nucleic acid amplification testing. Please use the [latest version](#) of the requisition. [Read the bulletin.](#)
- **Transfusion test menus:** The Provincial Transfusion Medicine service has adopted a centralized support model linking immunohematology reference labs to all other Transfusion Medicine testing labs. [Read the bulletin.](#)
- **Discontinuation of stool WBC testing:** Effective immediately, microscopy of stool for white blood cells (stool WBC or fecal leukocytes) will be discontinued provincially due to the availability of improved diagnostic tests. [Read the bulletin.](#)
- **Hemoglobin A1c testing:** Effective Tuesday, October 21, all lab sites reporting Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) in Alberta will transition from the third-generation Roche Diagnostics HbA1c assay to the fourth-generation Roche HbA1c assay. There is no change to ordering, sample collection or routing processes. [Read the bulletin.](#)
- **Restrictions on daily lab orders:** Effective Tuesday, October 21, Connect Care will implement restrictions on the use of daily lab orders for inpatients to reduce unnecessary testing and improve patient care. The default number of occurrences will be set to three days, with a maximum of seven days. [Read the bulletin.](#)

Health care refocusing report

A report has been published that outlines the results of the Government of Alberta's engagement initiative on the refocusing of health care provincewide.

The *Lead the Way* report is based on feedback received from January to May 2025, when 2,000 Albertans – including health-care workers – participated in a second round of in-person engagement sessions province-wide.

[Read the report.](#)

Regional advisory councils: Albertans can now share their views on health care with their local advisory council, created with the goal of bringing local perspectives to advise government and the provincial health agencies on ways to improve the health system. [More information.](#)

Health mandate letters: The government's primary care mandate letter can be [read here](#).

Transportation for non-urgent patients

Emergency Health Services Alberta and Health Link 811 have expanded their 911 shared response program in Calgary to include a six-month pilot transportation project for patients who need in-person medical assessment but don't require an ambulance.

[More information](#).

Quick links

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 *Parental Response to Everyday Pain in Children*. The webinar seeks to help attendees understand the relationship between parental responses and the development of chronic pain in children. [Register](#).

Rural team grant program

The Rural Team Recruitment Grant Program has reopened for a second round of intakes. The grant provides an opportunity for rural clinics and community organizations to expand their primary care teams to hire non-physician, non-nurse professionals. [More information](#).

Grand Rounds

On Tuesday, October 21, from noon–1 p.m., the next Grand Rounds – available online or in-person at the Peter Lougheed Centre – explores how curiosity, language and the patient voice can transform care delivery. [More information](#).

Capacity assessments webinar

On Thursday, November 20, from 12:15–1 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a webinar on navigating the essentials of capacity assessments. [More information](#).

Online patient reports

Effective Monday, November 3, Albertans can access operative, procedure and investigation reports through the My Personal Records (MPR) tool in MyHealth Records. The initial release includes one year of historical data. More information is available for [healthcare providers](#).

Reminder: Alberta Virtual Pain Program webinars

Providers are invited to attend two-hour virtual webinars to learn more about the latest evidence in chronic pain treatment for adults:

- Thursday, November 20, 3–5 p.m. [Register](#).
- Tuesday, December 16, noon–2 p.m. [Register](#).