

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Primary care access, MAPS final report

The future of primary care in Alberta was in the spotlight this week as the Government of Alberta announced a series of measures to [improve access](#) and also released the final reports of the [Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System](#) (MAPS) initiative. Highlights included:

- A \$57-million fund, over three years, to provide family doctors and nurse practitioners with support to help manage growing panels. Each provider could receive up to \$10,000 a year. Specifics about how to apply for the funding are yet to be announced.
- A task force will be established to recommend a new payment model for family physicians.
- A memorandum of understanding will be developed with the Alberta Medical Association to transition to a new physician compensation model, modernize primary care governance and stabilize primary care.
- Doctors will be able to bill for virtual mental health checks and therapy, and there will be compensation for extra time spent with patients virtually.
- A payment system will be introduced to support nurse practitioners to work in communities in independent practice to manage a panel of patients.
- The [strategic advisory panel final report](#) (MAPS) was also released. It includes 11 recommendations based on access to team-based care, integration and a coordinated and accountable primary health care system. It will act as a “road map” for reform.
- An Indigenous health division will be created, and \$20 million allocated for Indigenous communities to design and deliver primary care. The [Indigenous advisory panel final report](#) includes 22 recommendations.

The strategic advisory panel report includes a series of recommendations that relate to the future of PCNs, including expanding the PCN model to establish regional primary health care networks. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

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## 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, was viewed live by more than 300 physicians, staff and team members. It featured the following:

- [Alcohol use disorder](#) pathway: Pharmacological treatment, with Dr. Monty Ghosh ([skip to 6:36](#))
- Injection therapy, with Dr. Arun Gupta ([skip to 47:47](#))
- Immunization, with Dr. Jia Hu ([skip to 1.18:18](#))
- Primary care hot topics, with Dr. Rachel Han Savoie ([skip to 1.45:14](#))

A physician [FAQ](#) and slides ([alcohol](#), [immunization](#)) are also available.

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## Vaccine brand update

Alberta Health issued an update about its public [COVID-19 vaccination](#) branding as part of the 2023-24 immunization campaign.

Because it treats COVID-19 as endemic, it is shifting away from vaccine brand recognition in public communication, and on the online booking system.

[More information](#).

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## Quick links

### Reminder: 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. [Download the pathway](#).

### Household food insecurity webinars

On Tuesday, November 21, from noon–1 p.m., the University of Alberta's Centre for Lifelong Learning is hosting a *Navigating Household Food Security in Primary Care* webinar. A second webinar on *Strengthening Foundations for Patients Facing Household Food Insecurity* will be held on Thursday, November 30 at the same time. [More information](#).