

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Connect Care to launch at Calgary sites

The next phase of the Connect Care launch is coming to the Calgary area next month, with Foothills Medical Centre, Richmond Road Diagnostic and Treatment Centre and pharmacy and diagnostic sites among the facilities due to be added.

Starting Sunday, November 6 – the scheduled launch date – community family physicians will begin receiving clinical documentation from Connect Care via their EMR, email and fax. [More information.](#)

Key changes to note are as follows:

- Connect Care identifiers should be used on all requisitions
- Confirm your [identifier here \(provideridlookup.ahs.ca\)](#)
- [Update provider and clinic information](#), as appropriate
- Results from ECGs and some diagnostic imaging may continue to be sent via mail or fax only
- A reminder that Connect Care uses a single default provider location. Physicians can designate their default clinic by emailing servicedesk.emrbis@ahs.ca
- If the list of physicians working at your clinic needs to be updated, submit a request to [add or remove a provider location](#).
- For support or enquiries, contact the AHS Solution Centre at 1-877-311-4300.

Please note that Rockyview General Hospital and South Health Campus are scheduled to be part of a subsequent Connect Care launch, which is currently scheduled for the spring of 2023.

[Launch timeline](#) | [Summative notes](#)

Influenza campaign kicks off

Alberta's influenza immunization campaign is underway, with shots available to all Albertans aged six months and older.

For this year's campaign, quadrivalent inactivated influenza – Fluzone or FluLaval Tetra – is the provincially funded vaccine. It will be offered to those under the age of 65. A high-dose quadrivalent inactivated vaccine will be available to those aged 65 and older.

If your clinic is not offering flu shots, patients can [book an appointment online](#) or by calling 811. Some pharmacies are offering walk-in appointments for patients aged five and over. AHS public health clinics are offering appointments to children under five, their parents and household members, as well as those without a provincial health care number.

As of Saturday, October 1, 14 lab-confirmed cases of seasonal influenza had been reported in the Calgary Zone. [Latest statistics](#).

Note: Influenza vaccines and bivalent COVID-19 boosters can be given at the same time, in most cases.

[Information for providers](#) | [Information for patients](#) | [Influenza webinar](#) (recorded session)

Breast cancer screening recommendation

The recommended age for biennial (every two years) breast cancer screening for average risk women has been lowered to 45 from 50. Guidelines have been updated by the Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Clinical Practice Guideline Committee.

[More information](#).

Dialectical behaviour therapy course

Physicians are invited to register for a two-part virtual course that teaches providers how to use dialectical behaviour therapy skills and strategies in a primary care setting.

Zoom-based sessions will be held on Thursday, November 3 and Thursday, November 17 from 6-8:30 p.m. Space is limited. Credits are available. [Register](#).

[More information](#).

PCN Physician Lead opportunity

Nominations are now being accepted for the role of Calgary Zone PCN Physician Lead.

A critical leadership role in primary care in the Calgary Zone and provincially, nominations are being accepted for a family physician to serve a three-year term that starts October 1, 2023. The term is renewable by election.

Incumbent Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein, who has made a huge impact since taking on the role in 2017, is due to end his term in September 2023. [Watch a video of Dr. Greyvenstein](#) describing the role.

There is one Physician Lead Executive (PLE) in each of the five health Zones in Alberta. Read the [role description](#). The PLE is responsible for advocating for fellow PCN physicians within the Zone and province-wide as well as helping to guide strategy or policy to advance the Patient's Medical Home. It is remunerated at a 0.3 FTE at the clinical ARP rate.

To nominate someone for the role, fill out the nomination form. It should be emailed to erika.serek@albertadoctors.org by noon on Friday, January 20, 2023.

[PLE Terms of Reference](#).

Reminder: Ortho, spine, urology referrals

A new process to centralize urology referrals, as well as non-urgent orthopaedics and spine referrals, is now in place in the Calgary Zone.

Referrals (other than oncology or paediatric orthopaedics) should be sent to **1-833-627-7023**. There are no changes to referral forms and a 12-week grace period is in place, meaning that if referrals are sent directly to the surgeon, specialist or the old central access number, a note will be faxed back indicating it has been forwarded for review.

[Urology](#) and [orthopaedics & spine](#) access pathways posted on [specialistlink.ca](#) have been updated to reflect the change.

[More information](#).

Reminder: Geriatric medicine on Specialist Link

A reminder that geriatric medicine tele-advice is now available via [specialistlink.ca](#).

Non-urgent advice is available Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The service is closed on weekends and statutory holidays.

To request geriatric medicine tele-advice, visit [specialistlink.ca](#) and hover over “geriatric care” before selecting “geriatric medicine” and entering contact details. Alternatively, call 403-910-2551 and press 5, followed by 9. You can expect to receive a call-back within an hour.

Ebola fears prompt lab test request

Physicians are being urged to consider the possibility of travel-related haemorrhagic fevers prior to ordering lab testing due to an outbreak in Uganda.

[More information](#).

Quick links

COVID Corner webinar

On Wednesday, November 2, from 7–9 p.m., COVID Corner returns with a webinar on *Balancing Individual and Societal Needs and Responsibilities*. The session will explore the balance between lifting public health measures and protecting health and wellbeing. There will also be a vaccine update and a discussion about seniors and social isolation. [More information](#).

PCN webinar: Primary care hot topics

On Monday, November 14, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo will co-host the latest webinar in the Calgary Zone's popular series. The webinar will feature a mental health segment, as well as primary care hot topics including breast cancer screening, orthopaedics and a new pathway. [Register](#).

Webinar: Innovations in Addiction Medicine

On Thursday, November 24, from 7–8:15 p.m., the next webinar in the Alberta College of Family Physicians Thursday evening series tackles *Innovations in Addiction Medicine*. [More information](#).

Reminder: TARRANT Viral Watch Program

Family physicians are encouraged to join the TARRANT Viral Watch Program, which helps to collect data on influenza-like illnesses. [More information](#).