

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Neurodiversity, skin cancer webinar

A recording of the Calgary Zone's latest webinar, which focused on neurodiversity and non-melanoma skin cancer, can now be [watched online](#).

The virtual event, which took place on Monday, September 23, was viewed live by more than 240 physicians, staff and team members. It featured the following:

- Neurodiversity, with Dr. Gregory Skinner ([skip to 7:05](#))
- Non-melanoma skin cancer in primary care, with Dr. Justin Chia ([skip to 54:53](#))
- Primary care hot topics, with Dr. Christine Luelo ([skip to 1:35.02](#))

Up next: The final webinar of 2024, scheduled for Monday, November 18, is set to feature new facilitated access to specialized treatment (FAST) referrals, bariatric surgery and infectious disease. [Register](#).

Viral transport changes

Effective immediately, universal transport medium (UTM) or viral transport medium (VTM) can be ordered by all locations, direct from AHS Contracting Procurement and Supply Management (CPSM). Locations that currently order from the provincial health laboratory should stop submitting orders to the provincial lab in Calgary. Orders can be placed on the AHS online [ordering portal](#).

[Read the lab memo](#).

Home care program transition

The Calgary Community Aids to Independent Living (CCAIL) program has been folded into Integrated Home Care.

Effective Tuesday, October 1, all equipment and incontinence assessment services have been transitioned. This includes clients seeking long-term equipment and medical supplies covered by Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL). Please note: Referrals for AADL authorization of compression stockings and hernia supports will continue to be accepted through the CCAIL compression clinic.

For continued access to services, please use your existing process for referring to Integrated Home Care.

[Referral form.](#)

Vaccine distribution

Alberta's immunization program looks set to kick off later this month without community medical clinics.

A recent Expression of Interest for vaccine distribution closed without any submissions being received. A vendor will not be in place for the launch of the influenza and COVID-19 vaccine program on Tuesday, October 15. Limited distribution options from the Provincial Vaccine Depot are currently being explored.

Albertans are being asked to access immunization through public health clinics and pharmacies.

Regional networks physician survey

Alberta Health is asking family physicians and rural generalists to complete a survey that aims to inform the design of regional networks.

The formation of regional networks, described as an "evolution" of Primary Care Networks, was among the recommendations referenced in the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) final reports.

The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, October 18. Questions about the survey should be directed to health.MAPS@gov.ab.ca.

[Take the survey.](#)

Reminder: Referrals via FAST

Providers can submit referrals for orthopedic surgery, urology, vascular surgery, general surgery and gynecology via fax (1-833-627-7023) through the Calgary Zone Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) team.

Details on the referral process and criteria are available via the referral or access pathways:

- [Orthopedics](#)
- [Urology](#)

- [Vascular surgery](#)
- [General surgery](#)
- [Gynecology](#)

Pelvic exam for gynecology referrals: To ensure efficient triage, referral forms should clearly indicate pelvic exam findings. Referrals without this information may experience delays in processing.

Spine referrals no longer accepted via FAST: As of Monday, June 3, spine (orthopedics and neurosurgery) referrals via FAST are no longer accepted. Providers should submit spine referrals directly to the surgeon of their choice.

[More information.](#)

Quick links

Panel webinar

On Tuesday, October 15, at noon, and Wednesday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team is hosting a 90-minute webinar on EMR-specific steps physicians and teams can take to ensure their panel is fully uploaded. Click for more information about the [October 15](#) and [October 16](#) sessions.

Chronic pain workshops

On Wednesday, October 9 and Wednesday, October 16, AHS is offering virtual workshops on *Introduction to Pain Assessment (and Management) in Primary Health Care and Medication Management Overview for Primary Health Care*. [More information.](#)

Webinar: Seniors and driving

On Tuesday, October 22, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a virtual webinar on *Resources on Seniors and Driving*. [Register.](#)

PCN Pain Rounds

On Thursday, November 14, from 5:30–7 p.m., the latest installment of the PCN Pain Rounds series will focus on *Neurodiversity and Pain*. [More information.](#)

Connect Care access not required for AHS referrals

Community providers may be receiving referral communication and summative notes from AHS asking them to view information on Connect Care. Connect Care access is not required for AHS referrals. [Click here](#) or contact ccproviderbridge@ahs.ca for more information.