

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Geriatric medicine tele-advice

Geriatric medicine tele-advice is now just a click away after the specialty was added to the growing list of services available via specialistlink.ca.

Physicians and nurse practitioners in the Calgary area can request non-urgent advice for the following:

- Diagnosis of cognitive impairment in older adults
- Management challenges related to dementia
- Balancing complex chronic disease management
- Starting plans for deprescribing
- Falls
- Frailty

Requesting geriatric medicine tele-advice is simple: Visit specialistlink.ca and hover over “geriatric care” before selecting “geriatric medicine” and entering contact details. Tele-advice can also be requested by calling 403-910-2551 and pressing 5, followed by 9. You can expect to receive a call-back within an hour.

Geriatric medicine tele-advice is available Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on weekends and statutory holidays.

Ortho, spine, urology referrals

A new process to centralize urology referrals, as well as non-urgent orthopaedics and spine referrals, will go live in the Calgary Zone next week.

Effective Tuesday, October 11, referrals should be sent to **1-833-627-7023**. Please note that the new process does not include oncology or paediatric orthopaedic referrals.

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

- There are no changes to referral forms or letters at this time
- A 12-week grace period is in place for this change. If referrals are sent directly to the surgeon, specialist or the old central access number after October 11, a note will be faxed back indicating it has been forwarded for review

- Specify if you want the next available provider with the shortest wait list, or a specific provider, clinic or site
- Please state if you are requesting an out-of-Zone referral and include the name of a preferred provider or clinic

The new process was developed as part of the Alberta Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program, which is part of the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI).

[More information.](#)

Urinalysis testing resumes

Routine and non-urgent urinalysis testing can now resume after it was paused this summer due to a shortage of reagent supplies.

In July, physicians were asked to only order lab urinalysis testing required for urgent patient management. Supplies have been restored and non-urgent tests can resume. Patients who had tests delayed and still require testing can return to the lab with their requisition.

COVID-19 and influenza webinar

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, is hosting a webinar on Alberta's fall COVID-19 and influenza immunization program.

On Wednesday, October 12, at noon, Dr. Hinshaw and Dr. Robyn Harrison, of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), will share information about bivalent vaccines and intervals. A Q&A is scheduled to follow. Questions can be sent in advance to madelene.belanger@gov.ab.ca.

[Register.](#)

Quick links

Calgary physician named to advisory panel

Calgary family physician Dr. Janet Reynolds has been named co-chair of an Alberta Government panel on primary care.

Dr. Reynolds, Calgary Foothills PCN Medical Director and co-chair of the Calgary Zone's Patient's Medical Home Task Group, has been appointed to one of three advisory panels established as part of the *Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System* (MAPS) initiative. [More information.](#)

Pediatric pain webinar

On Wednesday, October 12, at 10 a.m., the College of Family Physicians of Canada is hosting a webinar on *Social Interventions for Equity in Primary Care: The Canadian Experience*. [More information](#).

Connect Care unpacked

On Wednesday, October 12, AHS is hosting webinars in two separate timeslots to help explain how Connect Care will change processes for primary care providers and staff. Register for separate sessions from [10-11 a.m.](#) and [4:30-5:30 p.m.](#)

Privacy training

A reminder that free privacy training is available to physicians and clinics staff from the Alberta Medical Association. The training is available on the [Learn@AMA](#) platform via computer, tablet and phone. Credits are available for completion of courses. [More information](#).