

Immunization program underway: Help spread the word

With the Fall Immunization Program in progress, Primary Care Alberta (PCA) encourages health professionals to talk with patients about vaccine safety and effectiveness and which vaccines would be best for them.

Some Albertans are eligible for provincially funded COVID-19 vaccines, the same as last year. Anyone over 12 can get both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines at a pharmacy.

Resources:

- Eligibility and appointments for the influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines
- A suite of resources and tools compiled by the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) to help you navigate vaccine conversations

---

FAST urology updating referral requirements

Effective Tuesday, Dec. 1, referrals for Calgary Zone Urology must meet all provincial pathway-specific mandatory referral criteria and investigations before they can be triaged.

To find the relevant requirements and pathways, you can use:

- The updated urology access pathway and linked information on Specialist Link
- Alberta Referral Directory's service profile for Urology Centralized Access - Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST), which has pathway links near the top of the web page and for each routine reason for referral
- Alberta's Pathway Hub by searching for urology and filtering by clinical pathway for the relevant results

Completion of mandatory referral requirements supports appropriate triage, improves referral quality, and helps ensure timely access to specialist care.

Until Monday, Nov. 30, FAST will:

- Continue forwarding urology referrals to specialist offices to avoid delays
- Notify referring providers of any missing mandatory requirements

During this transition period, referring providers are responsible for ordering and ensuring completion of the identified mandatory requirements while patients await their urology appointment.

Please send the completed requirements directly to the specialist office — not FAST.

New gestational diabetes pathway, plus lab bulletins

Alberta's Pathway Hub has a new provincewide primary care pathway on gestational diabetes in pregnancy.

The pathway was created to:

- Support the care needs of patients
- Help address growing demand for this information across the healthcare system

It features the clinical pathway, referral guideline, and patient resources.

Lab bulletins:

- Effective immediately, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) has updated the General Laboratory Requisition to be more evidence-based and align with Choosing Canada Wisely guidance; open the bulletin.
- Effective Sunday, Nov. 1, saliva swab from a newborn baby will be an acceptable specimen for the cytomegalovirus polymerase chain reaction (CMV PCR) test at APL-Public Health Laboratory; open the bulletin.

Make eReferral notifications work for you

Alberta Netcare eReferral users are automatically subscribed to a list of Provider Notifications to track activity on a referral or eConsult through an immediate or daily summary email.

To customize this list, or choose not to receive notifications, you can review the quick reference one-pager for step-by-step instructions.

CEO-CMO-CNO column: Wainwright

Support and thanks for the providers and teams who offered care and compassion in response to the tragic events at the Canadian Forces base in Wainwright is the theme of a column from PCA's CEO, Chief Medical Officer, and Chief Nursing Officer.

Open the column.

Single phone number to access assisted living services

Assisted Living Alberta Client Navigation and Integration has launched the Assisted Living Alberta Access Centre, and it's accessible through a single phone number that replaces the five access centre phone numbers from the old structure.

Albertans can now call 1-855-371-4122 to access assisted living services like Home and Community Care and Continuing Care Home placements. Call takers will help coordinate care in whichever area of the province an individual is calling from.

The line is answered 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Callers can leave a message if they call outside regular hours.

Screening for Life: New online guide

A new online guide is available on screeningforlife.ca to help Albertans understand when they should start screening for breast, cervical, or colorectal cancer.

The guide translates complex screening recommendations into an accessible and interactive experience.

Open the guide.

Quick links

Food insecurity resources
AHS's Nutrition Services has refreshed their web page for health professionals on food insecurity to make it easier to find tools, funding information, and resources to support patient care.

Choosing Wisely Talks recording
If you were interested but unable to attend the Oct. 28 webinar on how Calgary Foothills PCN embedded Choosing Wisely principles into quality improvement initiatives, the one-hour recording is available to watch when it fits your schedule.

Menopause strategy summit
On Thursday, Nov. 5, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., join an in-person event in Calgary, the Health Empowerment Resilience (HER) Menopause Strategy Summit, with a keynote presentation and

a speaker panel with audience Q&A to contribute to the future of (peri)menopause care. Get the details and registration.

Chronic disease and the patient experience
On Thursday, Nov. 5 at 8:30 a.m., join PCA's next 3.5-hour workshop on improving the patient experience in chronic disease management. A self-paced online module must be completed before attending the live, online session. Please email CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca to learn more or to register.

PPIP: Q&A
On Monday, Nov. 9 at 6 p.m., get your Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) questions answered live in a one-hour webinar from the Alberta Medical Association. Register.

PPIP: Quality improvement basics
On Monday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m., join *Quality Improvement Basics: Keeping it (Small+) Simple*, a one-hour webinar followed by a 30-minute Q&A, from the AMA on the basics of quality improvement (QI) in medical practice and the steps to complete a PPIP QI activity. Register.

Build confidence in supporting infertility
On Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m., the Calgary West Central PCN invites Calgary Zone physicians and their clinic staff to join a 90-minute webinar featuring an infertility specialist on optimizing fertility and local programs from the Calgary Regional Fertility Program and the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Centre. Register.

PCN Pain Rounds
On Thursday, Nov. 26 at 5:30 p.m., the next 90-minute webinar in the PCN Pain Rounds series focuses on techniques for pain relief in chronic abdominal pain with related evidence and interventions. Register.