

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



E. coli information

Information about how community providers can assess and test for E. coli is available following an outbreak at six Calgary daycares and five additional sites that share a central kitchen.

Parents of children who attend the sites linked to the outbreak have been advised to call Health Link with questions or go to urgent care or emergency if they have symptoms. However, family doctors and teams may find it helpful to review an [Alberta Health Services memo](#) for community providers. Please note the following:

- Symptomatic patients linked to the outbreak need stool testing
- Management is centred around adequate hydration and monitoring for early identification and treatment of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), with referral to urgent care or emergency when clinically indicated
- HUS typically occurs five to 10 days after the onset of diarrhea
- Affected individuals need daily blood and urine testing
- Antibiotics should not be routinely provided to patients with diarrhea. Nephrotoxic medications and those that reduce gut motility should be avoided. Please seek advice on management if you are not sure

[Read the memo.](#)

Prenatal, postpartum care for evacuees

Information is available to physicians and teams supporting evacuated pregnant patients to plan their return to the Northwest Territories.

A phased re-entry of hospital and outpatient services in Yellowknife is underway following efforts to halt the spread of forest fires. However, the capacity to care for unwell neonates is limited. Pregnant patients have been advised not to return, based on the following criteria:

- Patients at 36 weeks or more (as of Wednesday, September 6) should plan to stay in their evacuation site until after delivery, including those who were planning to travel to Yellowknife for delivery, and those living in other communities under evacuation order
- Patients at 33-36 weeks, or under 33 weeks with significant complications or risk should also stay in their evacuation site until they receive further instructions
- Patients under 33 weeks with no significant complications can return home

Yellowknife primary care is open for outpatient prenatal appointments, and Yellowknife public health is able to follow healthy postpartum patients and newborns.

[More information.](#)

Breast health program

A multidisciplinary breast health clinic that offers screening, diagnosis, management, and surgery has opened at the Southern Alberta Surgical Center. The existing Breast Health Center is no longer seeing low-risk benign disease patients and is suggesting referral here for these issues. Referrals are being accepted via a [referral form](#) or a referral letter outlining concerns or previous imaging. [More information.](#)

Fall webinar: Alcohol use disorder

A new alcohol use disorder pathway for primary care physicians and teams will be the focus of an October webinar as the Calgary Zone's series returns this fall.

On Monday, October 16, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Monty Ghosh will join co-hosts Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo to discuss the pharmacological management options highlighted in the pathway, which was developed by the Calgary Zone PCNs. The pathway is expected to be published later in September. Musculoskeletal injections and the fall 2023 immunization plan are among the other topics that will be featured in the webinar. [Register.](#)

Quick links

Reminder: Connect Care discussion

On Tuesday, September 19 from 5–6 p.m., physicians are invited to take part in a discussion about Connect Care. [Register.](#)

Cytodiagnostic urine testing discontinued

Cytodiagnostic urine testing has been discontinued following a review. Urine cytology testing can still be ordered as needed. [More information.](#)

Reminder: Discounted rates for PIAs

Clinics have until Saturday, September 30 to make the most of time-limited [reduced rates](#) for Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs). The offer is aimed at clinics that have submitted a confirmation of participation form and now need to update their PIA. An updated PIA is a key

step in going live on the Community Information Integration and Central Patient Attachment Registry (CII/CPAR). There is [grant funding available](#) for clinics that sign up for this important initiative.