

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Understanding neurodiversity

What is neurodiversity and why does it seem to be everywhere? Those are some of the questions Dr. Gregory Skinner will seek to address in next week's Calgary Zone webinar.

On Monday, September 23, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Skinner will join regular host Dr. Rick Ward to discuss topics that include neurodiversity in women and how to access diagnosis and support for autism spectrum disorder.

Also on the agenda Monday is a talk from Dr. Justin Chia on non-melanoma skin cancer that includes a run-down on basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, actinic keratosis and dermatopathology. In addition, Dr. Christine Luelo will host her usual hot topics section.

[Register.](#)

Reminder: New tele-advice services

Suspected child abuse and neglect and pediatric palliative care tele-advice services are now available on Specialist Link.

The suspected child abuse and neglect (SCAN) line is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., while pediatric palliative medicine tele-advice is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[More information.](#)

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.

Urine cytopathology: Urine cytopathology (cytology) is indicated to diagnose high-grade urothelial carcinoma and should only be ordered when there is a suspicion of bladder cancer. Even when appropriately ordered, a negative result on urine cytology does NOT rule out cancer. Urine cytology is not required prior to urology referral. Please reference page 4 of the [provincial urology referral pathway](#). [Read the lab bulletin](#).

[More information](#).

Interval changes for glucose in neonates

Effective Wednesday, September 4, the lower age range for fasting and random glucose reference intervals changed from less than 30 days to less than 72 hours. The lower end of the less than 72-hour reference interval will be adjusted from 2.5 mmol/L to 2.6 mmol/L.

[Read the lab bulletin](#).

Updated: Suicide prevention contact info

The Kids Help Phone can be reached by calling 1-800-668-6868, texting “Connect” to 686868, or by visiting [kidshelpphone.ca](#).

To reach the Canada Suicide Prevention Service, please call or text 988, or visit [988.ca](#).

Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre

The new Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre (Arthur Child) is set to open its doors to patients at the end of October. It will include inpatient and outpatient services. [More information](#).

Quick links

Proactive care coordination assistant program webinar

Starting on Wednesday, September 25, from noon–12:45 p.m., the Physician Learning Program and Edmonton Southside PCN are hosting a seven-part webinar series on the proactive care coordination assistant (PCCA) program. [Register](#).

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](#).

Trauma-Informed Leadership

On Tuesday, October 29, from 6–9 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a three-hour Canadian Medical Association virtual webinar on *Trauma-Informed Leadership*. [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](#).

Choosing Wisely Canada national meeting

Winnipeg will play host to Choosing Wisely Canada's 2025 national meeting, which will be held on the weekend of May 25–27. Content submissions are being accepted until Friday, December 6. [More information](#).

SUMA assessor

Are you a family medicine physician interested in becoming a SUMA assessor? Summative assessments involve an assessor going to the physician's workplace for up to four days. You are eligible to be reimbursed at \$200 per hour for your time and applicable meal, travel and accommodation costs. For more information, please contact suma@cpsa.ab.ca.