

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Non-melanoma skin cancer webinar

A discussion about non-melanoma skin cancer management will be front and centre at the next webinar in the Calgary Zone's popular series.

On Monday, September 23, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Justin Chia will join regular host, Dr. Rick Ward, to talk about managing concerns in primary care. Dr. Christine Luelo will present her usual hot topics segment, and there will be a discussion on neurodiversity. [Register](#).

Instant replay: A recording of the July webinar on fibromyalgia can be [watched online](#).

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, available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., can help with the following:

- Concerns that a child may have experienced abuse and you are not sure of next steps
- A parent or child has disclosed abuse and you are not sure about next steps
- A child has a physical finding that is suspicious and you would like to discuss with a child maltreatment specialist
- You have a patient you think needs a sexual abuse examination

Pediatric palliative medicine tele-advice, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., offers non-urgent advice and support to providers who have patients with complex palliative symptoms that include:

- Pain
- Nausea
- Dyspnea
- Constipation
- Opioid toxicity
- Delirium
- Depression, anxiety and grief

The service can also support clarification of treatment goals and management plans, decision-making approaching end of life and access to pediatric hospice support. [More details](#).

Clinical indications for urine cytology

Effective immediately, the following changes are being made to promote appropriate use of lab resources:

- 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 requests must be accompanied by one of the following indications in the clinical history:
 - Gross hematuria
 - Persistent microscopic hematuria
 - Bladder tumor

Urine cytology follow-up should be completed as recommended by urologist for bladder cancer surveillance. Community requests with any other history or with no history will be rejected.

Please note that urine cytology is not required prior to urology referral. Please reference page 4 of the [provincial urology referral pathway](#). [Read the lab bulletin](#).

Interval changes for glucose in neonates

Effective Wednesday, September 4, the lower age range for fasting and random glucose reference intervals will change 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](#).

Reminder: Mpox lab testing

Mpox lab testing is available in Alberta and can be carried out on the same viral swabs sent for herpes simplex virus or varicella zoster virus.

Testing is recommended for individuals of all genders presenting with acute rash or ulcers with or without systemic symptoms – fever, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, back pain or lymphadenopathy – who in the last 21 days had one or more of the following risk factors:

- Sexual contact with new, anonymous or multiple partner(s)
- Sexual contact with a person(s) who had sexual contact with new, anonymous or multiple partner(s)
- Significant contact with a person who had skin lesions such as macules, papules, pustules, vesicles or ulcers with no known alternate cause
- Contact with a known or probable case of Mpox

- Visiting or recently returned from a country with high rates of Mpox virus circulation

[Read the lab bulletin.](#)

Reminder: IPOP clinics not accepting referrals

AHS long COVID Inter-Professional Outpatient Program (IPOP) clinics at Rockyview General Hospital, Peter Lougheed Centre and Community Accessible Rehabilitation are no longer accepting referrals.

Available resources for health professionals include the [COVID pathway](#) and toolkits. Patient resources include the rehabilitation advice line (1-833-379-0563), a [patient resources](#) website page, [videos](#) and [MyHealth.Alberta](#) resources.

Quick links

Influence and advocacy for physicians

On Tuesday, September 17, from 6–7 p.m., and on Wednesday, September 18, from 7:30–8:30 a.m., the Alberta Medical Association’s Physician Champion Network is hosting a webinar on *Influence vs. Advocacy: Distinguishing the Difference*. The webinar will reference different styles and approaches, as well as offer tips for success. [Register](#).

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](#).

Pain Society of Alberta conference

From Thursday, October 17 to Saturday, October 19, the Pain Society of Alberta will host its 18th annual conference at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff. All physicians and health team members are invited to attend. [Register](#).

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](#).

Family Medicine Forum

From Wednesday, November 6 to Saturday, November 9, the College of Family Physicians of

Canada will be hosting the Family Medicine Forum at the Vancouver Convention Centre in B.C. [Register](#).

MAPS newsletter

Those interested in subscribing to the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) e-newsletter can [register here](#).

Surveys, engagement opportunities

Care planning for complex patients

There's still time to partner with One:carepath, a project led by the University of Alberta, to use care planning tools for patients living with advanced stage chronic disease. Primary care physicians can join until Saturday, November 30. There are funds to support this work and participation can be used as part of the PPIP-CPSA QI requirements. [More details](#).

SUMA assessor

Are you interested in becoming a SUMA assessor? Summative assessments involve an assessor going to the physician's workplace for up to four days. Remuneration is \$200 per hour, up to a maximum of eight hours per day, and an additional \$1,000 for time and expenses. For more information, please contact registrationassessments@cpsa.ab.ca.

APL physician survey

Associated Precision Laboratories is looking for feedback on lab services. A short online survey is open until October. [More information](#).

CPSA practice readiness assessors

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta is currently recruiting urban, rural and regional physicians to join its pool of practice readiness assessors for Preliminary Clinical Assessment (PCA) in family medicine. [More information](#).

Brainstorming resources for Long COVID

On Wednesday, October 2, a brainstorming session will be held to provide input into a grant-funded Long COVID program. Dr. Chester Ho is looking to understand the rehabilitation and education services your Long COVID patients need in the absence of specialty clinics. For more information, please email suzanne.basiuk@albertahealthservices.ca.