

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Two new provincial pathways

The Provincial Pathway Unit has released two new clinical pathways for primary care:

- Provincial Autism in Infants and Young Children Primary Care Clinical Pathway
- Provincial Tobacco and Nicotine Dependence Primary Care Clinical Pathway

The [autism pathway](#) can be used when concerns about pediatric growth and development have been flagged by parents, caregivers, or a healthcare provider, and it offers guidance on monitoring for the earliest signs of autism and making referrals as needed.

The [tobacco-nicotine pathway](#) outlines assessment and treatment and applies to patients aged 18 and up who indicate they have smoked, vaped, or used other commercial tobacco or nicotine products in the past 30 days due to the increased risk of relapse during this period.

Lab bulletins: Temporary test discontinuation and more

Neopterin and Tetrahydrobiopterin, CSF testing is temporarily unavailable in Alberta until a new referral laboratory is identified.

Alternative diagnostic approaches include Neopterin Metabolites, Urine (LAB9612) or molecular genetic testing; [open the bulletin](#).

Additional bulletins:

- A new provincial Anatomic Pathology Placenta Requisition #22298 (2026-08) is now available; [open the bulletin](#).
- Effective Tuesday, Sept. 22, pediatric lipid panel and individual lipid test reporting will be updated to align with recent recommendations by the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists; [open the bulletin](#).
- As of Sept. 15, cervical cancer screening test requests on individuals aged 50 - 69 are being flagged and triaged for possible test cancellation if follow-up testing intervals are not adhered to; [open the bulletin](#).
- Antibiograms for 2025 are [now available](#) and should be reviewed annually and empiric antimicrobial prescribing practices updated as appropriate based on current susceptibility data; [open the bulletin](#).

- As of Sept. 10, 3-methoxytyramine (3-MT) testing is available at Alberta Precision Laboratories as part of the plasma metanephrines test panel through the Calgary Analytical Toxicology lab; [open the bulletin](#).
 - Routine neonatal evaluation and post-natal RhIG eligibility testing are available locally at select rural Transfusion Medicine Testing sites in the Calgary, Central, Edmonton, and North Zones; [open the bulletin](#).
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Declining newborn screening

Primary Care Alberta has noted an increase in parents choosing not to participate in the Alberta Newborn Screening Program, according to the [latest column](#) by the agency's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO).

But you can help expectant parents make an informed decision, having earned their trust over years of consistent care.

To help with these conversations, Dr. Mike Spady, CMO, and Kim Hogarth, CNO, encourage you to [review the materials](#) on the Alberta Newborn Screening Program web page.

New learning module supports healthy births

Neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy is the leading cause, globally, of mortality, cerebral palsy, and neurodevelopmental disability.

A [new online module](#), Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy: Fetal Heart Rate Case-Based Teaching, is now available on the University of Alberta's website to assist clinicians strengthen fetal heart rate interpretation, intrapartum clinical decision-making, and team-based reflection through case-based learning.

It is free, accredited, and in alignment with the Fetal Health Surveillance Canada education framework. If you have questions, please contact Shazia.Dharamsi@ahs.ca.

Quick links

PPIP: AI tools webinar

On Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a one-hour webinar that explores AI scribes in medical practice and how this topic can fulfill any Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) activity, followed by a 30-minute Q&A. [Register](#).

Start of the 2026-27 PCN Pain Rounds series

On Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 5:30 p.m., the first 90-minute webinar of the new PCN Pain Rounds series will be on the intersection of pain, addiction, and insomnia. [Register](#).

ACFP's Thursday Evening Webinars series

On Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m., the Alberta College of Family Physicians' Thursday Evening Webinars returns with *Burnout: The Slow Leak or the Sudden Crash*, the first of a three-part series of 90-minute webinars on physician wellness. [Register](#).

Tobacco intervention virtual workshop

On Thursday, Oct. 8, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., a workshop facilitated by the PCA Tobacco, Vaping, & Cannabis Program and the Canadian Network for Respiratory will strengthen participants' skills to help clients quit commercial tobacco products. [Register](#).

PPIP: Facing the drain

On Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 90-minute webinar, *Facing the Drain of Medical Practice*, to look at what can drive burnout, techniques to reduce stress, and guidance on making lasting change — plus support the completion of the personal development PPIP requirement (prerequisite required). [Register](#).

Women's health webinar series

Starting in October, the University of Alberta is hosting a three-part webinar series from noon to 1 p.m. on primary care management of postpartum recovery (Tuesday, Oct. 20), fertility (Tuesday, Oct. 27), and contraception (Monday, Nov. 2). [Register](#).

PPIP: Caregiver-centred care

On Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 75-minute webinar on practical, evidence-based strategies to engage, partner, and support caregivers; it is designed for any PPIP-required activity and has prerequisites. [Register](#).