

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Preparing for the fall immunization program

Growing vaccine hesitancy is a concerning issue in Alberta and across Canada.

To support physicians, other healthcare providers, and their patients, Primary Care Alberta (PCA) is sharing several resources on the importance and safety of vaccines that can help when talking with patients.

You can find evidence-based information on primarycarealberta.ca/immunize and additional resources from other organizations:

- [Benefits of immunization](#) (Government of Canada)
- [Communicating effectively](#) about immunization (Government of Canada)
- [Checkups and immunizations](#) for children (HealthyParentsHealthyChildren)
- [Vaccine confidence toolkit](#) (University of Calgary)
- [Vaccine myths and facts](#) (Canadian Paediatric Society)

In the coming weeks, PCA will provide updates on the fall immunization program.

Vaccine hesitancy is also the topic of the latest column by PCA's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mike Spady, and Chief Nursing Officer, Kim Hogarth, along with mental health and staying well in the fall.

[Read the column.](#)

New patient pathway on iron deficiency anemia

The Provincial Pathways Unit has introduced a new patient pathway that aligns with the recently published provincial clinical pathway on iron deficiency anemia:

- Your Journey with Iron Deficiency Anemia ([patient pathway](#))
- Provincial Adult Iron Deficiency Anemia Primary Care Clinical Pathway ([clinical pathway](#))

You can find the link to the provincial clinical pathway, and many others, at any time on the Specialist Link [web page](#) for clinical pathways and resources.

Neonatal Bilirubin, Total results lab bulletin

Effective Thursday, Sept. 17, a correction factor will be applied to certain serum/plasma Neonatal Bilirubin, Total (NBIL) results in neonates <30 days old.

This will improve NBIL result agreement across two instrument types used for testing, reducing discrepancies and reclassification risk when neonate care for jaundice occurs between testing sites.

No additional calculations or actions will be required from the clinician as the correction factor will be applied automatically to applicable NBIL results. Read the [lab bulletin](#).

Nominations open for health award

To recognize the career achievements of a health professional, the Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services is accepting nominations for the Dr. Peter B. R. Allen Lifetime Achievement in Health Award until Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Eligible nominees may come from diverse backgrounds across all health sectors, clinical professions, and designations. [Get the details](#).

Reminder: Detecting lung cancer in never-smokers

To assist physicians in recognizing the signs, symptoms, and risk factors for lung cancer, Cancer Care Alberta has added new content to their Community & Primary Care Provider [website](#).

As the incidence of lung cancer in never-smokers (LCINS) is increasing, the updates include specific information about LCINS so it can be detected earlier.

Review the [specific information on LCINS](#).

Quick links

PPIP: Healthy team culture webinar

On Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 90-minute webinar that explores strategies for supporting a healthy team culture and offers the opportunity to complete a Physician Practice Improvement (PPIP) action plan. [Register](#).

Full-day chronic pain education event

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, starting at 8:30 a.m., the Calgary Pain Program is hosting a full-day

educational event online for healthcare providers who want to strengthen their understanding of chronic pain care with practical approaches you can apply in your clinical practice. [Register](#).

ECHO Autism

Starting on Thursday, Sept. 17 at noon, six one-hour webinars on the first and third Thursday of each month will connect primary care physicians with a team of autism specialists for a didactic learning session and case presentation by a registered participant. [Register](#).

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 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](#).

Foundations of asthma, COPD

On Monday, Sept. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Primary Care Alberta is hosting a live, interactive Zoom session, which builds on required self-directed pre-learning, as part of a blended learning program, *Foundations of Asthma and COPD (Level One)*, focused on asthma and COPD assessment and management. To learn more or register, email CDM.ProviderTraining1@primarycarealberta.ca.

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](#).