
Frequently Asked Questions: Primary Care Corridors

To provide primary care partners with an overview of the proposed Primary Care Corridor Provincial Health Corporation model, share current plans for implementation and transition, and enable discussion and questions to support a common understanding of the future primary care landscape.

What are Primary Care Corridors?

Primary Care Corridors (PCCs) are new organizations that are being created under Primary Care Alberta (PCA) to plan, coordinate, and fund primary health care services based on the needs of local communities.

The corporations will align with Alberta's existing regional health corridors, giving every part of Alberta a dedicated organization focused on addressing local needs and ensuring primary care planning reflects the communities it serves.

When will Primary Care Corridors be established?

The regulation to create the PCCs as legal entities will come into force on September 1, 2026, with the organizations expected to become operational in spring 2027.

There will be no changes to current Primary Care Network (PCN) operations on September 1, 2026.

What is going to happen to the 39 Primary Care Networks?

Alberta's 39 PCNs will continue to deliver front-line, team-based primary care services in their communities. PCNs remain important partners in supporting access to team-based care for Albertans.

What do these changes mean for PCN staff?

PCN staff will continue to be employed by their PCN and will continue to deliver team-based primary care services in their communities.

What is happening to PCN funding?

There are no immediate changes to PCN funding. Current grant agreements have been extended to March 31, 2027.

In the future, PCNs will be funded through service contracts with PCCs rather than grant agreements. Additional information on contracting arrangements will be shared as PCCs are established and implementation planning progresses. PCCs have not yet been legally established and therefore cannot enter into contracts at this time.

Updates about funding and service agreements will be communicated well in advance to ensure PCNs have enough time to plan and adapt to any future changes.

How does this help Albertans?

PCCs are designed to make it easier for Albertans to get the care they need, when and where they need it. Albertans who already have a family doctor or other primary care provider will continue to receive care from their current provider. This will help maintain existing relationships and support continuity of care. For Albertans who do not have a primary care provider, PCCs will help improve access to primary care by better coordinating services and planning care based on the needs of the local communities.

For rural and remote communities, PCCs will support access by identifying gaps in services, supporting better coordination among providers and planning services based on local needs. This will help Albertans living in rural and remote communities have more consistent access to primary care and other community-based support closer to home.

PCCs will also help reduce the administrative load on front-line providers by handling regional planning, funding agreements, reporting and coordination.

Additional Questions from PCNs

What are the responsibilities of PCNs, PCCs, PCA and PPHS in the new model?

PCNs will continue to provide, team-based primary care services in their communities. They will remain physician-led organizations that are responsible for delivering local programs and services.

PCCs will plan and coordinate primary care services across their regions. They will identify service gaps in care, support accountability for results, and establish service agreements with PCNs that outline services, funding and reporting requirements.

PCA will support province-wide planning, coordination, and oversight of primary care services. PCA will help PCCs carry out provincial priorities.

Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) will provide policy direction, funding, oversight and accountability for Alberta's primary health care system. The Minister of PPHS is responsible for the PCCs.

What changes are anticipated to governance and accountability structures?

PCNs will continue to exist as organizations delivering comprehensive, collaborative team-based primary health care. We expect the physician-led PCNs boards will remain in place providing governance and clinical leadership about how care is delivered locally.

PCCs are new organizations that will be led by a Managing Director and overseen by PCA. As provincial health corporations, some of their governance and accountability requirements are set out in regulation, while other requirements will be outlined in their bylaws. More information will be shared as the organizations are stood up.

How does positioning PCCs as commissioning bodies improve system performance?

The PCCs will be responsible for planning and coordinating primary care services and making the system easier to navigate. The new model will give every part of Alberta a dedicated organization focused on addressing local needs and ensuring that primary care planning reflects the communities it services.

PCCs will be able to assess service needs within their corridors and will work with PCNs to improve access, consistency, and integration of primary care services to support Albertans. Service agreements between PCCs and PCNs will clearly outline services, funding, reporting requirements, and expected results. This will help PCCs and PCNs work toward shared goals and provide clear accountability for how services are delivered.

Is there a cost associated with this change?

There are expected to be some stand-up costs associated with establishing PCCs. The Ministry has set aside funding in its current budget to address this.

When will PCNs receive an update about business plan processes

Once PCCs are established, they will provide more information about future business planning requirements, including any new templates and expectations related to service agreements. PCNs will receive guidance on next steps and timelines as this work progresses.

How can PCNs help make this transition successful?

Your ongoing feedback and involvement will be important throughout the transition. Our immediate focus is on establishing PCCs while maintaining stability for patients, providers, and care teams.

We encourage PCNs to share information within their organizations and bring forward any questions, concerns, or operational issues as they arise. Please reach out to the PCC mailbox at PPHS.PCCSupport@gov.ab.ca.

As planning continues, there will be opportunities to provide input and help shape how the transition is implemented locally. We will continue to share updates, answer questions, and work closely with PCNs to support a smooth transition and strengthen access to primary care services for Albertans.