

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Gynecology referrals, tele-advice closures

Primary care providers in the Calgary area are advised to send gynecology referrals directly to the clinic or surgeon of their choice, effective immediately, after the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) initiative paused its central intake program for that specialty.

A list of local gynecology clinics can be [downloaded here](#). Gynecology tele-advice is available via [specialistlink.ca](#). Alberta Netcare eReferral – [eConsult](#) is also available.

FAST has been accepting gynecology referrals in the Calgary Zone since June 2024. On Monday, December 23, 2024, a “[letter to primary care](#)” was issued stating that in recent months, “the number of participating specialists has decreased to a point where centralized intake is no longer feasible. FAST will revisit the program after consulting with gynecologists and primary care practitioners on how to improve participation to streamline referrals and improve patient access to this important specialty.”

Providers who send gynecology referrals to FAST will receive a note back informing them of the change of process. Existing referrals held by FAST will be processed as usual.

Tele-advice service closures: Urology and orthopedic surgery tele-advice are no longer be available via Specialist Link.

For orthopedic surgery questions, family physicians and nurse practitioners are asked to direct questions to the RAAPID consultation and advice line. Urology non-urgent requests can go through FAST. Emergent calls can continue to be directed to the urologist on call. The patient can also be directed to the Rockyview General Hospital emergency department, at the discretion of the provider.

Please refer to the [orthopedics access pathway](#) and the [urology access pathway](#).

Physician comprehensive care model resources

Alberta Medical Association tools and resources are available to support family physicians looking for more information about the new physician comprehensive care model (PCCM):

- [Compensation comparison tool](#)
- [Enquiry and feedback form](#)
- [Financial calculator](#)

- [PCCM essentials guide](#)
 - [PCCM resources](#)
 - [Physician FAQ](#)
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Refocusing health: Engagement sessions

A new round of public engagement sessions is taking place over the next few months as part of the Government of Alberta’s plans to “refocus health care.”

The sessions, which are open to all, will be held in different communities between January and April. [More information and registration.](#)

Reminder: Measles case

A travel-related measles case was confirmed in December that involved an infectious individual in public settings in Calgary. [More information.](#)

Resumption of mail service

With the Canada Post labour disruption coming to an end last month, short-term changes made to ensure delivery of patient results and reports, summative documents and letters are being halted. Results will no longer be duplicated to Connect Care in baskets, and tracings or waveforms are being mailed. Providers are encouraged to continue receiving clinical information by fax or eDelivery where feasible. [More information.](#)

Quick links

Burnout prevention webinar

On Tuesday, January 21, from 6–7 p.m., and Wednesday, January 22, from 7:30–8:30 a.m., the AMA’s Physician Leadership Network will review the latest evidence and discuss strategies and approaches for minimizing risks related to burnout. [Register.](#)

Addiction and mental health lunch and learn

On Wednesday, March 5, from 12:05–12:50 p.m., Recovery Alberta’s provincial addiction and mental health team will host a webinar on *Measuring Recovery in Recovery Alberta*. [More information](#)

PCN Pain Rounds

On Tuesday, January 21, at 5:30 p.m., the next 90-minute webinar in the PCN Pain Rounds series, *Fibromyalgia: Weighing the Medication Options*, will cover medication management and therapies for fibromyalgia. [More information.](#)

Transitions talk

On Tuesday, January 14, from noon–1 p.m., the AMA is hosting a one-hour session exploring evidence-informed practices to support patients transitioning from home to hospital and back home. [Register](#).

Support for PPIP program

A University of Calgary program is available to help physicians meet the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) requirements. [More information](#).

CBT for children

The University of Calgary Psychology Clinic is offering cognitive behavioural therapy for children aged six to 17 who are struggling with anxiety or low mood. Clients work with a graduate student under the supervision of a registered psychologist as part of a multi-session therapeutic treatment program. [More information](#).

Glucose monitors

The Government of Alberta is expanding access to continuous glucose monitors. [More information](#).