

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Primary Care  
Networks  
CALGARY AND AREA

## Pathways for common conditions

Pathways are available to support primary care providers to manage two common conditions that have high referral volumes.

[Lower limb ischemia](#) and [hematuria](#) referrals are in some cases being denied due to the lack of appropriate work-up or triaging. The pathways may be helpful in clarifying what can be done in the medical home and how best to process referrals.

**Dermatology tele-advice:** Dermatology tele-advice is no longer available on Specialist Link. Providers seeking non-urgent advice can request eReferral Consults. Emergent cases should continue to be referred to the dermatology on-call team. [More information](#).

**Concussion pathways:** The Calgary Zone [acute concussion pathway](#) is designed for patients in the initial four weeks following injury. That includes geriatric patients and those who are pregnant. If the patient is still symptomatic at more than 12 weeks post-injury – unless it's the first presentation – there is also a [persisting post-concussion symptoms pathway](#).

**Palliative care:** Updated pathways for [pediatric](#) and [adult](#) patients are now available.

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## Ambulatory medication information

Effective Thursday, March 20, a new display for Connect Care outpatient medication orders will be available in Netcare and will include the following:

- Data will be updated in real time
- Data will not be available via the Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN), but as a separate tab in the medication section of Netcare
- Medications listed will be based on medication orders. This means they will be prescribed for administration, but not necessarily dispensed or administered, which is different than information in PIN that is based on dispensed medications

For more information, review this [reference document](#).

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## RSV vaccination guidelines

Effective Monday, March 10, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine eligibility will expand to include community-dwelling seniors aged 70 years and older (previously 75) and First Nations,

Metis, and Inuit individuals aged 60 and older. Residents of continuing care homes and senior supportive living who are 60 years and older continue to be eligible to receive provincially funded RSV vaccine. The current recommendation is to receive only one dose.

[More information.](#)

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## Measles resources

With Canada experiencing an increase in measles cases, the following resources are available to primary care providers:

- Get the vaccine via local [public health or community centres](#), or by calling 811
  - Measles [information for health professionals](#)
  - Primary care [summary guide](#)
  - [Pathway](#)
  - [Lab testing](#)
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## MAPS townhall

On Wednesday, March 19 from 7:30–8:30 a.m., the next Modernizing Alberta’s Primary Health Care System (MAPS) virtual townhall will be hosted by Alberta Health.

The event will feature updates on MAPS, Primary Care Alberta and the second round of regional network design workshops. Email [health.maps@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.maps@gov.ab.ca) for more information.

[Register.](#)

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## Compensation model resources

Resources are available to support physicians who want to find out more about the new primary care physician compensation model (PCPCM).

- [Billing for encounters and time](#)
- [Eligibility and enrolment](#)
- [Understand the model](#)

A detailed PCPCM operations manual can also be [downloaded](#).

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## Reminder: Avian influenza

Patients with acute viral respiratory illness or influenza-like illness and exposure to animals with suspected or confirmed H5N1 infection in the preceding 10 days should be considered for H5N1 influenza testing.

If H5N1 influenza is suspected in a patient, contact the Zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and the Alberta Precision Laboratories Public Health Laboratory microbiologist/virologist on-call to facilitate testing prior to submitting specimens. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

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## Quick links

### Addiction and mental health

On Wednesday, March 5, from 12:05–12:50 p.m., Recovery Alberta will host a webinar on *Measuring Recovery in Recovery Alberta*. [More information](#)

### Lighten your workload

On Wednesday, March 12, at 10 a.m., Choosing Wisely Canada will host a webinar discussing how primary care providers can free up more time for appropriate, patient-centred care. Calgary's Dr. Janet Reynolds will be among the speakers. [Register](#).

### PCN Pain Rounds

On Thursday, March 20, from 5:30–7 p.m., the next installment of the PCN Pain Rounds series will focus on *Trauma Therapy in a Person with Pain*. [Register](#).

### Transitions in Care Talk

On Tuesday, March 25, from noon–1 p.m., AMA-ACTT (Accelerating Change Transformation Team) will host the latest Transitions in Care Talk, on *Improving Information Continuity*. [Register](#).

### Caregiver-centred care

On Tuesday, April 1, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a webinar on caregiver-centred care. The session highlights how making time for caregivers is essential to patient care and your practice. [Register](#).

### Primary Care Strategic Forum

The 2025 Primary Care Strategic Forum will be held in Edmonton from May 1–3. [Register](#).

### PPI self-reflection tool

A free online tool that promotes self-reflection on advancing your practice is now available. The tool, called MyL3Plan, can be used to meet the requirements for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta's Physician Practice Improvement (PPI) program. [More information](#).