

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Arthur Child oncology referrals

Effective Monday, October 28, all Tom Baker Cancer Centre and Holy Cross Centre cancer services transitioned to the new Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

Those sending fax referrals should update their records for the new Arthur Child fax number and main switchboard as follows:

- Main switchboard: 587-231-3100
- Toll-free number: 1-844-465-6330
- Referral fax number: 587-231-3580

Please discontinue sending fax referrals to Tom Baker and Holy Cross. Faxes sent to those locations will be rerouted to Arthur Child until May 2025. From that point on, if senders have not updated their contact information, they will receive an error message. [More information](#).

Palliative care: There is a new fax and phone number for adult palliative care referrals for facility living and community (urban): 587-231-3665. Please see the [access pathway](#).

Labs: Multiple testing laboratories have also moved to Arthur Child. [Read the lab memo](#).

Patient referral info

Effective Thursday, October 31, patients will be able to view referral information for urology consults entered in the Netcare eReferral system.

Referral information will be viewable through the My Personal Records (MPR) application and will include referral date, referring provider, reason for referral (specialty=urology), referral statuses and referral status reason. The first release of referral information will be for urology consults only. Referrals sent to other specialties will be released at a later date.

[More information](#).

Infectious disease webinar

The next webinar in the Calgary Zone's popular series will examine the fall respiratory virus situation in the Calgary area.

On Monday, November 18, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Jim Kellner will lead a session on influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19. In addition, Dr. Christine Luelo will lead a Hot Topics segment and there will be an update on AHS bariatric clinic process changes.

There will also be a discussion about the December launch of four new surgical specialties on the Facilitated Access to Specialist Treatment central access program: Plastic surgery, neurosurgery, otolaryngology and oral maxillofacial surgery. [Register](#).

Instant replay: A recording of the September neurodiversity and non-melanoma skin cancer webinar can now be [watched online](#).

Specialist Link: Get a call back within 2 hours

Effective Monday, November 4, the turnaround time for Specialist Link tele-advice return calls will transition from one hour to two hours.

This change is part of efforts to ensure consistent and reliable service to primary care teams across the Calgary area and is based on feedback from primary and specialty care.

Immunization program

Alberta's immunization program is underway, with influenza and COVID-19 vaccines available for Albertans aged six months and older. RSV immunization is also available for Albertans aged 60 and older who are residents of continuing care homes or supportive living, as well as those aged 75 and older in the community.

- **Influenza:** A four-strain injectable standard dose can be [booked online](#) or by calling 811. Some pharmacies are also offering walk-ins. [More information](#).
 - **COVID-19:** Only mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are available. They include the updated KP.2 strain. [More information](#).
 - **RSV:** Appointments can be [booked online](#), by calling 811 or through participating pharmacies. [More information](#).
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Reminder: Ortho rapid access clinics

Four rapid access clinics have been established in the Calgary area with the aim of reducing wait times for patients referred for orthopedic surgery consultation.

The clinics use multidisciplinary teams to diagnose, determine the need for surgical consultation and provide non-surgical management strategies, where appropriate.

Referrals for orthopedics should be submitted, as usual, via Facilitated Access to Specialist Treatment (FAST), to 1-833-627-7023, except for oncology and pediatric orthopaedics, as well

as spine surgery. A reminder that spine referrals should be sent directly to the spine clinic or surgeon of your choice. Patients may be directed to rapid access clinics to reduce wait times.

Gynecology referrals: Long wait times continue to be an issue for routine gynecology consultations in the Calgary area. Work is underway to engage more gynecologists on the FAST central referral platform, with the aim of improving load levelling. In the meantime, please note that referrals submitted via FAST may be sent to clinics in areas surrounding Calgary (i.e., Canmore). If your patient is unwilling to travel please note that on your referral.

Reminder: Lung screening pilot closes

The Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program pilot is no longer accepting new patients for screening, either through primary care providers or via self-referral. [More information](#).

Quick links

CanREACH in 2025

Two CanReach virtual mini-fellowship sessions are being offered in 2025, starting in January and May. On Friday, January 17 and Saturday, January 18, conferences will be held for the first pediatric primary care program session, followed by 12 one-hour clinical case sessions. The second conference dates are Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31. [More information](#).

CIHI webinar

On Thursday, November 7, at noon, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is hosting a webinar on *Visits to the Emergency Department that Could be Managed in Primary Care*. [Register](#).

2024 Mackid Symposium: Clinical care

On Thursday, November 28, from 5:30–9:30 p.m., the Department of Family Medicine is hosting the 2024 Mackid Symposium at the Markin MacPhail Centre. This year's symposium has a special focus on *Clinical Care Updates: The Advocacy Agenda*. [Register](#).

Billing education seminars

On Tuesday, November 5 and Tuesday, November 12, the Alberta Medical Association is hosting billing seminars. The [November 5 event](#) (6–8:30 p.m.), features family medicine office visits and procedures. The [November 12 session](#) features on-call ER and rural rotation duty ER.

Organ donation posters

Posters encouraging Albertans to register to donate their organs and tissues are available via [GiveLifeAlberta.ca](#).