

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Calgary to be one of 7 regional networks

The Calgary area is set to be home to a new regional primary health care network as part of the next phase of the Government of Alberta's [Modernizing Alberta's Primary Care System](#) (MAPS) initiative.

Regional networks are designed to represent an “evolution and expansion” of the existing Primary Care Network model. The Calgary regional network will be one of seven in Alberta. It will have a mandate to build on the existing strengths of PCNs and take on responsibility for meeting the primary healthcare needs of the entire population, while also supporting primary care providers in the delivery of care.

Calgary's regional network will serve a geographical area that is very similar to the current Calgary Zone and encompasses all seven local PCNs. It stretches from Claresholm in the south to Crossfield to the north, Siksika Nation to the east and Lake Louise to the west.

“It's great news that the Calgary region will have one network to support access to primary care for all local residents, regardless of where they live or whether they have a family doctor or primary care provider,” said Calgary Zone Medical Director Dr. Christine Luelo. “PCNs in the Calgary area have a long and successful history of working together to meet the needs of all patients – highlighted by the creation of several key programs locally like Alberta Find a Doctor, Specialist Link and the coordinated attachment hub. Formalizing the relationships between our PCNs as part of a single region will allow us to improve access to care and build on the great work undertaken locally since the first PCNs were formed in 2006. We're excited to get started.”

In addition to the formation of a network in Calgary, networks will be created in the South-East, the South-West, Central, Edmonton, North-West and North-East Alberta. The regions align with the boundaries of the seven [health corridors](#) established in Alberta. No dates have been confirmed for the formation of the new regional networks, but transition planning will start later this summer. For more information, please see this [summary](#) or email [health.MAPS@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.MAPS@gov.ab.ca).

---

## Measles latest

More measles cases have been confirmed in the Calgary area as the total number of cases continues to rise throughout the province.

A total of 868 cases had been reported in Alberta as of Thursday, June 12, including 18 in the Calgary Zone.

All practitioners in the Calgary Zone are advised to consider measles in under-vaccinated individuals presenting with a febrile illness. Locally acquired cases may not have a known source. Appointments for immunization are available within the week across the zone. A measles hotline was launched earlier this month at 1-844-944-3434. Physicians can also report suspected and probable cases to the physician reporting line at 1-844-343-0971 (option 1).

**Posters available:** Measles posters are now available in several languages, including Low German, Michif Cree, Michif French, Blackfoot and Spanish. [More information](#).

---

## AI scribe registration

Registration is now open for eligible primary care clinicians who want to benefit from Canada Health Infoway funding up to 10,000 one-year AI scribe licenses to help streamline documentation and reduce administrative burden. To register an expression of interest, select Alberta as the province and choose from a list of approved providers. [More information](#).

---

## Ask why for PPIs

Choosing Wisely Canada has produced a newly updated proton pump inhibitors (PPI) toolkit, offering practical guidance on appropriate prescribing, duration, and when to consider deprescribing. The toolkit, developed by a team that included Calgary physician Dr. Elaine Bland, is applicable to adults and adolescents in a variety of settings.

PPIs are widely used and generally safe but are often prescribed for longer periods and at higher doses than recommended. Evidence suggests that 30-40 per cent of PPI prescriptions lack an ongoing indication. [Download the toolkit](#).

---

## Reminder: Specialist Link survey

Specialist Link needs your help to ensure it meets the needs of primary care providers in the coming months and years. The Specialist Link survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous. [Take the survey](#).

---

## Reminder: Indigenous support line

A support line for Indigenous patients and families has been expanded to Calgary and Edmonton.

Operated by Health Link in partnership with the Indigenous Wellness Core, the line connects callers with health professionals who understand Indigenous ways of knowing and traditional healing practices. It can also be utilized by front-line healthcare providers to assist in providing culturally appropriate care. The service is available at 1-844-944-4744 or 811. [More information](#).

---

## Quick links

### **PIIP webinars**

On Monday, June 16, from 6–7:30 p.m., and on Thursday, June 26, at the same time, the AMA’s Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT) is hosting the next webinars in a series on Physician Practice Improvement Program (PIIP) activities. The upcoming sessions are on *Virtual Care Excellence* and *Facing the Drain of Medical Practice*. [More information](#).

### **PCPCM information session**

On Friday, June 20, from 12:30–1:30 p.m., the next AMA-ACTT webinar in the PCPCM series focuses on locums. [Register](#).

### **Specialty access webinar**

On Monday, June 16, from 5–6 p.m., PCN physicians are invited to join a CME-accredited webinar focused on improving your specialty access referral experience. [Register](#).

### **Transitions in Care Talk: Discharge summaries**

On Wednesday, June 25, from noon–1 p.m., the next Transitions in Care Talk will focus on *Improving the Quality of Discharge Summaries*. [Register](#).

### **Delayed results for Parvovirus IgM testing**

Effective immediately, Parvovirus B19 IgM antibody testing will temporarily shift from daily to biweekly processing due to resource and supply constraints. Expect delays in results for Parvovirus IgM testing (typically used in pregnancy or pediatric settings to investigate febrile rash illnesses or hydrops fetalis). [Read the lab bulletin](#).

### **Insulin antibody testing process**

Effective immediately, Insulin Antibody testing most relevant for suspected autoimmune diabetes (especially Type 1) or insulin allergy workups is being centralized to improve test consistency and turnaround times. Please review the new process. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

### **Virtual chronic pain management**

Albertans can access a free virtual program offering expert tips and tools to manage daily discomfort associated with chronic pain. Patients can call 1-877-719-7707 or [visit the website](#) to learn more. Healthcare provider referrals are also accepted. [More information](#).

### **HQCA now Health Quality Alberta**

The Health Quality Council of Alberta has changed its name to Health Quality Alberta. Please note: Primary health care panel reports were sent to individual physicians earlier this week. [More information](#).