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# FAST SPOTLIGHT

March 30, 2026

*The FAST Spotlight newsletter is your go-to quarterly source for updates, insights and stories from the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program.*



## On the radar

FAST news & updates

### Edmonton Zone FAST strengthens collaboration with Primary Care Networks

Edmonton Zone FAST has been busy engaging with members of the Edmonton & Area Primary Care Networks (PCNs) with the goal of enhanced learning and relationship building. Last year, FAST welcomed eight referral coordinators from four different Edmonton & Area PCN Hubs to visit the FAST office. The visit offered the opportunity to meet, share the work they do and explore how to reduce duplicate efforts.

Here are a few testimonials from their visit:

*“Courtney and I were very appreciative of the opportunity to come and meet with the FAST team! Some highlights included:*

- putting faces to names, seeing the work environment*
- the ability to view workflows and ask questions*
- the opportunity to collaborate on workflow improvements*
- taking what we learned back to our team (the whole team was very excited to hear about our experience)*
- built increased awareness of some of the barriers the FAST team faces and the work the program is doing to overcome them*
- further strengthens our relationship and desire to advocate for each other where able*
- opportunity to share our side of the story with the FAST team as well.”*



*Lauren Stone, Manager, Referral Coordination  
& Quality Improvement, Leduc Beaumont Devon PCN*

*“Understanding the different levels of administrative work that all come together to ensure patients move seamlessly through the systems was informative and helpful. I especially*

*liked seeing the perspective of some of the tally/triage lists for plastics and colposcopy physicians. There is a large amount of highly detailed information being consistently handled by your team, and from our perspective as community-provider affiliates, this does not go unnoticed. Accuracy is crucial in this line of work and collaborating with teams who see the importance of this is appreciated."*

Tierra Thomason, Program Supervisor, Edmonton O-day'min PCN

## **North & Edmonton Zone eConsult reason for referral update**

The following reasons for referral are no longer available for eReferral eConsult within the North Zone:

- General Surgery:
  - Benign breast tumor issue
  - Colorectal issue
  - Gallbladder issue
  - Other general surgery issue
  - Other abdominal hernia
  - Suspected breast cancer
  - Suspected gastrointestinal cancer issue

Within the Edmonton Zone, the following eConsult reasons for referral are no longer available:

- OBS-GYN Urogynecology:
  - Urogynecology issue
- OBS-GYN:
  - Gynecological Issue
  - Obstetrical Issue
  - Colposcopy Procedure

If you need to submit a non-urgent request for advice for these specialties, please contact Connect MD at 1-844-633-2263 or go [online](#).

## **Other Referral Pathways updates made in Feb.:**

- The [Provincial Adult Orthopedic & Spine Referral Pathway](#) was updated to clarify which Zones need Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) information required.
- The [Provincial Adult Gynecology Referral Pathway](#) was updated with the information that referrals for High Risk HPV must include both the GPV and Pap test results in the pathology report.

## **eReferral - Referral reason labels/synonyms now available**

In the past, some reasons for referral in eReferral differed than what they were listed as in Referral Pathways or referral forms. This variation created confusion and required checking multiple sources to find the correct referral reason.

To streamline this process, a new Labels feature has been added, which allows you to cross reference terms used in the Referral Pathways and those listed in the Health Services Catalogue (HSC) in eReferral.



For example, when creating a referral for 'Knee pain': In the *Referral Reason* field, begin typing to view available options (note: It is best to search by three or more characters instead of the entire referral reason). Referral reasons can now be found using terms that align with the terminology used in the Referral Pathway. Labels are identified by an asterisk.

Labels are also used for synonyms, acronyms or other terms that might be used by physicians to submit referrals.

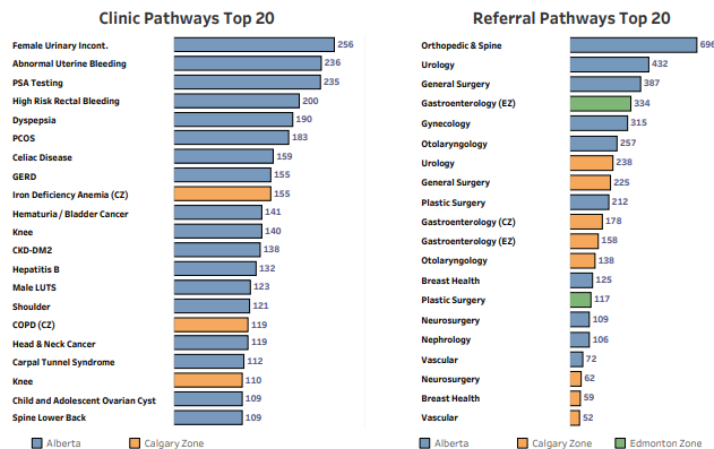
This is ongoing work, so please [email](#) us if you have any additional terms or suggestions we can add to other reasons for referral.

 **By the numbers**  
Data, results & performance metrics

## Urology a top contender for Clinical Pathways views

Since urology was launched with FAST, there have been five Clinical Pathways built (three by the Provincial Pathways Unit and two by the former AHS Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)). Of the five Pathways - Hematuria/Bladder Cancer and Male LUTS are in the top six Clinical Pathways accessed via the [Alberta's Pathways Hub](#). The urology Referral Pathway is the second most downloaded Referral Pathway, and UTI is one of the top 10 reasons for referral to urology.

**Alberta's Pathway Hub**  
October 2025 to December 2025





## Information from our partners

### Community Information Integration (CII): Connecting care for specialists

Timely access to information is essential for quality patient care and continuity. With [Community Information Integration \(CII\)](#), consult reports flow seamlessly from clinic EMRs into **Alberta Netcare**.

With CII, your consult report becomes visible to any provider in the patient's circle of care, reducing duplication and improving collaboration across the system.

**SPECIALISTS & CII**  
FROM CONSULT TO CONTINUITY  
*Charting a course for better care*

Send patient consults to Netcare with Community Information Integration

Easy to use with your EMR

- ✓ Enhance collaboration & care continuity
- ✓ Reduce duplicate referrals & admin burden
- ✓ Maintain control over consult sharing

AVA  
CHR  
ACCURO  
HEALTHQUEST  
MED ACCESS

Accelerating Change Transformation Team

#### How CII enhances patient care

When a patient visits the emergency department or sees another physician, having consulted reports in Netcare ensures that care plans and recommendations are accessible. This reduces unnecessary referrals, prevents repeated tests, and supports better outcomes.

For teams like **FAST**, quick access to accurate consult details can be very helpful, especially when tracking time-sensitive referral metrics.

#### CII works with your EMR

CII is designed to fit your workflow with minimal disruption. In most EMRs, it's a one click task — essentially a “**Send to Netcare**” button to push after finalizing a consult letter. Some systems even automate the process in the background.

#### Physicians stay in control

With CII, consult reports can be:

- reviewed before submission
- changed after submission
- removed after submission

#### CII is easy to use

The majority of EMRs in Alberta are already CII-enabled, making adoption simple for physicians and teams. Specialists consistently report that CII feels effortless!

Once configured, CII becomes a routine component of everyday documentation — so simple that many physicians barely notice it, but you'll feel the benefits right away: reduced administrative burden and more time for patient care.

*"CII provides a seamless way for our surgeons' office notes to appear in Netcare with no added effort. This kind of integration is rare and requires no extra steps. Our surgeons value having that information available in hospital, and it's reassuring to know GPs can access the same information when they need it."*

– Tanya, Executive Director, Alberta Hip and Knee Clinic

### **How to participate: clinic prerequisites**

- Use a CII-conformed EMR
  - Ava, Accuro, CHR, Healthquest, Med Access
- Live on Alberta Netcare
- Up-to-date Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to ensure compliance with Health Information Act

### **Get started today**

Nearly 700 Alberta specialists are using CII in their community-based EMR – it's free, secure and proven to enhance care continuity. Find out how you can join the growing community of specialists who are making patient information more accessible and improving collaboration across Alberta's healthcare system by filling out the [CII/CPAR Expression of Interest](#) form and visiting our dedicated [CII for Specialists webpage](#).

### **Improving access to specialist consult notes**

Increasing the visibility of consult notes supports safer, more coordinated patient care by reducing duplicate referrals and tests, preventing conflicting treatments and improving continuity of care. Consult reports may be available on Alberta **Netcare** and **Connect Care**.

#### **How to find Consult Notes on Alberta Netcare:**

- Click the **All-Documents** tab
- Select **Consultations** on the left-hand side of the window
- Review the available reports for the appropriate specialist/specialty

#### **How to find Consult Notes on Connect Care:**

- Select the **Chart Review** tab
- In the **Letters** tab and apply the following filters:
  - **Reason for Letter:** Consult
  - **Department Specialty:** Referred to specialty
- Review the available documents for the specialist consult note

***Did you know? As a community provider, you can set up eDelivery to receive Connect Care documents directly to your EMR.***

Find more information here: [Placemat: Clinical Document Delivery to the Community](#).

# Questions?

In addition to our phone information line (1-833-553-3278), you can reach out to your Zone FAST teams via email:

- North: [abfast.north@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:abfast.north@primarycarealberta.ca)
- Edmonton: [abfast.edmonton@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:abfast.edmonton@primarycarealberta.ca)
- Calgary: [abfast.calgary@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:abfast.calgary@primarycarealberta.ca)
- Central: [abfast.central@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:abfast.central@primarycarealberta.ca)
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**Primary Care  
Alberta**