

North Zone: Centralized Referrals for Orthopedics & Urology

As part of the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI), a new central access and intake system for managing referrals launched in the North Zone on **Monday, August, 15, 2022** for urology and orthopedics. The program is called **Alberta Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST)**.

What North Zone referring providers need to do as of August 15, 2022:
Change the fax numbers for sending non-urgent urology and orthopedic referrals to:
1-833-627-7025

FAST Facts:

- All non-urgent orthopedic and urology referrals require submission to the FAST team starting Aug. 15, 2022; other specialties will be added over time.
- One toll free fax number for non-urgent urology and orthopedics referrals: 1-833-627-7025
- When referring, you can choose:
 - Next available provider with the shortest waitlist
 - A specific provider by name
 - An out-of-Zone referral to a specialist in a different part of the province
- Each referral will be checked for completeness and sent to a surgeon's office within the Zone accepting FAST referrals. This roll-out is in continued development and your feedback to improve the processes is greatly appreciated.

Need to refer to FAST? Here are three easy steps:

1. Review the Referral Pathway at ahs.ca/pathways. Use it to understand what information is required with your referral.
 2. Fax your usual referral form or letter* to the FAST office: 1-833-627-7025.
 3. Specify if you want a next-available provider with the shortest waitlist, a named provider (e.g., Dr. Smith) or an out-of-Zone provider.
- If you need to send non-urgent orthopedic and urology surgery referrals to other Zones, include the name of a preferred provider or clinic at this time.
 - Edmonton Zone urology will continue with their current process of receiving referrals via Alberta Netcare eReferral. If you require assistance, please reach out to the FAST team. If you want to arrange eReferral training, please reach out to the eHealth Netcare Support Services team at 1-855-643-8649.

*You can continue to use your usual referral form or letter at this time. New provincial referral forms will be released in spring 2023 and included in community Electronic Medical Records (EMRs).

Staff from the FAST office will provide phone and email support Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Phone: 1-833-553-3278 (833-553-FAST) **Email:** ABFAST.North@ahs.ca

➤ More information: Visit ahs.ca/specialtyaccess