



This Issue: Academy of Quality Improvement Science, Using Cognitive Screening Tools, News from the AHS Update and more.

We would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7, & 8, and the homeland of the Métis. We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.

Note: Recognizing some medical staff use an alternate email address instead of an AHS email address, some information is duplicated from the AHS Update to ensure all AHS medical staff have all up-to-date organizational information that may impact their practice.

Topics:

Medical Affairs News

- Academy of Quality Improvement Science
- Keep Using Existing Cognitive Screening Tools
- Join the Lunch-hour Physicians' Healing Group this January
- Support for Physicians
- Career Opportunities
- Additional Resources for Physicians

From the AHS Update

- Action on Our Priorities
 - Your Wellness
 - COVID-19 Status and Cases in Alberta
 - Rollout of Pediatric Bivalent Booster Expected Early in New Year
 - Interim CEO Video Message – Supporting Psychological Health, Safety
 - Keep Using Existing Cognitive Screening Tools
 - Remember to Unplug Seasonal Decorations
 - Happy Holidays from the Executive Leadership Team
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Medical Affairs News

Academy of Quality Improvement Science

Quality and Patient Safety Education's new [Academy for Quality Improvement Sciences \(AQuIS\)](#) offers two foundational streams of courses focused on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement.

A Culture of Patient Safety course (PPS100) is now live and is eligible for six CME credit hours with the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons and four Mainpro+ credits with the College of Family Physicians.

All courses are delivered virtually and can be attended by anyone in AHS. Visit [MyLearningLink](#) (search QPSE) for course dates and registration.

Keep using existing cognitive screening tools

Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) developers are currently establishing a process for publicly-operated organizations to access their online training and certification. AHS is collaborating with MoCA on an efficient process for physicians and staff with AHS.

At this time, please continue using the existing [suite of screening tools and resources](#) until further direction is provided. These tools are widely used across AHS, integrated within Connect Care, and support clinically appropriate cognitive screening practices.

More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Questions? Contact practice.consultation@ahs.ca.

Join the lunch-hour Physicians' Healing Group this January

Starting Jan. 13, we are offering a facilitated peer-support group for AHS physicians who self-identify as having experienced trauma or diversity struggles within their workplace settings. This discussion group will be a facilitated space to share experiences and receive support.

The discussions are not equivalent to therapy, but you may find them to be therapeutic. Previous attendees commented that:

- "It was helpful to hear that others are facing the same challenges."

- "I felt very safe asking questions without fear of being judged."
- "These discussions are great investments into my mental, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being."

The group will be hosted weekly on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. from Jan. 13 to Feb. 17. Discussions will be led by trauma-informed physician co-facilitators, Dr. Leanne Owens, Psychiatrist, and Dr. Ileen Taylor, Family Physician. Participants and facilitators are jointly responsible for creating a safe space.

Please [register online](#), as a limited number of spots are available.

Support for Physicians

The [Physician & Family Support Program](#) (PFSP) continues to offer services on an individual basis that you can access by calling the assistance line at 1-877-767-4637.

AHS has also developed new resources aimed at offering support to physicians. These are now available online:

- [Webinar](#)
 - [Resource Guide](#)
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Career Opportunities

Practice opportunities across a broad range of specialties are available. All vacant AHS physician practice opportunities are posted on our physician recruitment website, [Doctor Jobs Alberta](#).

Additional Resources for Physicians:

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Healthcare Professional information page](#)
- [COVID-19 Immunization Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Community Physicians](#)
- [CPSA's Physician Portal](#)
- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)
- [MD News Digest](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Physician Wellness Educational Resources: Well Doc Alberta](#)

From the AHS Update

You can read the [full version online](#).

Action on Our Priorities

With the arrival of Dr. John Cowell as our Official Administrator, we are working together to address four priorities for AHS identified by Premier Danielle Smith and Health Minister Jason Copping.

They are:

- Improving EMS response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing wait times for surgeries.
- Developing long-term reforms through consultations with front-line workers.

The latter priority involves enhanced decision-making at the local level, encouraging innovation to improve and expand local health services, and attracting more health workers to Alberta.

Much of this work is underway. We will continue to use this update to highlight actions being taken to urgently address our priorities.

Developing long-term reforms

[Share your feedback to improve local decision-making](#)
[South Zone Healthcare Planning online survey extended](#)

Reducing wait times for surgeries with Alberta Surgical Initiative

[Surgical wait-list update](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities, including:



Public Health & Pandemic Response and Recovery

[AHS receives keys to Calgary Cancer Centre](#)
[COVID-19 tool assesses for other respiratory illnesses](#)



Workforce Recruitment & Retention

[Join upcoming Nursing Mentorship Network sessions](#)
[Call for nurse mentees](#)

Your Wellness

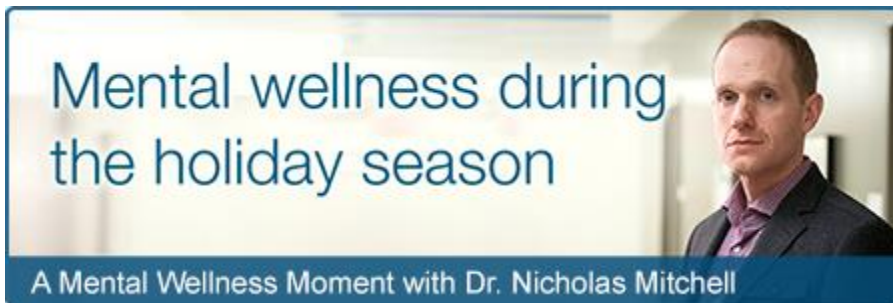
Stress Solutions support your mental well-being

Whether you're experiencing situational stress or cumulative stress, you can access support through [Stress Solutions](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Get immunized for influenza, report it right away

Use the [Got My Flu Shot form](#) to report your immunization if you received it at a pharmacy, doctor's office or public health clinic. [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment — mental wellness during the holiday season



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell provides advice on how to manage stress over the holidays. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video

Listen as a Podcast

Latest News

COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta

Latest hospitalizations, ICU update and information on variants of concern and wastewater surveillance. [\(more...\)](#)

Rollout of pediatric bivalent booster expected early in new year

Pfizer's bivalent COVID-19 booster shots for kids, between five and 11 years old, are expected to be offered early in the new year. [\(more...\)](#)

Interim CEO video message – supporting psychological health, safety



We discuss our commitment to protect the psychological health and safety of our people and strengthen our culture of respect and inclusiveness. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Keep using existing cognitive screening tools

Please use existing tools until information about access to Montreal cognitive assessment (MoCA) training and certification becomes available. [\(more...\)](#)

Remember to unplug seasonal decorations

Before leaving your workspace for the holidays, please remember to unplug your seasonal decorations, and personal appliances or electronics. [\(more...\)](#)

The Executive Leadership Team wishes you all the best this holiday season. We put together an e-card as a way to thank you for everything you do. [\(more...\)](#)



Thank you for everything you do, each and every day. I wish you joy, peace and good health this holiday season.

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

