



*This Issue: Alberta Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) Program, Muhammad Ali Abid Memorial Service Award, 3-day Human Factors Course, News from the AHS Update and more.*

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

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*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**

- New program helps improve access to specialists
- Register for 3-day course exploring the role of human factors in healthcare
- Muhammad Ali Abid Memorial Service Award
- 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
- Encouraging prevention of COVID-19 variant XBB.1.5
- Additional immunization choices for children now available
- Novavax vaccine available for youth 12-17 years
- Interim CEO video message – innovations in endoscopy
- Resignations and retirements — employee submissions in e-People

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## Medical Affairs News

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### **New program helps improve access to specialists**

The [Alberta Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment \(FAST\) program](#) allows family doctors and other providers to send referrals for urology or orthopedic surgery to a central team, who can then assign the referral to a specialist with the shortest waitlist.

Referring providers, find out how to use FAST:

- [North Zone](#)
- [Edmonton Zone](#)
- [Central Zone](#)
- [Calgary Zone](#)
- [South Zone](#)

The FAST program will expand to all surgical specialties in the upcoming months.

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### **Register for 3-day course exploring the role of human factors in healthcare**

Human factors studies the interrelationship between humans, the tools and equipment they use in the workplace, and the environment in which they work. During this 3-day course, you will explore the role of human factors in healthcare using hands-on activities and case studies in various clinical areas.

We are pleased to co-host this upcoming course with HQCA, W21C and the University of Calgary, with course offerings in both Edmonton and Calgary. Learn more [here](#).

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### **Muhammad Ali Abid Memorial Service Award**

The Muhammad Ali Abid Memorial Service Award was established in 2021 in loving memory of Muhammad Ali Abid, a member of the Southern Alberta Chapter (SAC) Executive and of the Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL). In Ali's honor and memory, this annual service award is presented to one member of the healthcare leadership community in Canada who has demonstrated a passion and commitment for advocating, helping and serving others through volunteerism in their community.

**Criteria:**

Nominees must hold a position of leadership or influence in the healthcare sector and have made a significant/impactful contribution to the Alberta community and/or across Canada, through extensive volunteer activity to the benefit of deserving charities, other organizations, causes, or individuals.

**How to Apply:**

A CCHL member in good standing must complete the required nomination form and submit to Lesley Myles, Chair of SAC-CCHL at [Lesley.myles@shaw.ca](mailto:Lesley.myles@shaw.ca) no later than April 30, 2023. For eligibility requirements and nomination procedures, please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#). To submit your nomination download the [Nomination Form](#) here.

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**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](#).

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**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

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### [Action on our Priorities](#)

We are working to urgently address four key priorities.

They are:

- Improving EMS response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing wait times for surgeries.
- Improving patient flow through our sites and programs.

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

### **Decreasing emergency department wait times**

[Know Your Options campaign in full swing](#)

### **Improving patient flow**

[New transition beds open in Edmonton](#)

[Virtual MD program celebrates one-year anniversary](#)

Photo: virtualMD.jpg

### **Reducing wait times for surgeries with Alberta Surgical Initiative**

[New program helps improve access to specialists](#)

[Surgical wait-list update](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities, including:

### **Rural & Indigenous Initiatives and Engagement**

[Land acknowledgements available online](#)

[South Zone Indigenous patient navigation service resumes](#)

### **Your Wellness**

#### **Kick-start your wellness**

Resources are available to make wellness part of your New Year resolutions.

(...more)

#### **Get immunized for influenza, report your immunization**

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 — the connection between food and mood**

Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about the connection between food and mood.

(...more)

**Commented [CH1]:** To be updated most recent content when available

Video: <https://youtu.be/tFz3d1E7tMw>

Podcast: [https://soundcloud.com/ahs-communications/mental-wellness-moment-food-and-mood?si=f375ecd51fca4ea2b8b45a4b0d953156&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/ahs-communications/mental-wellness-moment-food-and-mood?si=f375ecd51fca4ea2b8b45a4b0d953156&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

#### Latest News

##### **COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta**

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

##### **Encouraging prevention of COVID-19 variant XBB.1.5**

The appearance of this new variant highlights the ongoing need to advise Albertans about preventing COVID-19 transmission. (...more)

##### **Additional immunization choices for children now available**

The Pfizer Comirnaty BA.4/BA.5 bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster is now available for children aged 5 to 11 years of age. (...more)

##### **Novavax vaccine available for youth 12-17 years**

The Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine is available for as a primary series or as a booster dose for youth 12 to 17 years of age. (...more)

##### **Interim CEO video message – innovations in endoscopy**

Innovations in endoscopy are allowing us to track and identify trends over time and improve the quality of care we provide. (...more)

Video: <https://youtu.be/yhijCNfNB5w>

Podcast: [https://soundcloud.com/ahs-communications/interim-ceo-podcast-innovations-in-endoscopy?in=ahs-communications/sets/ceo-podcast/s-KJNNCcJX2v3&si=4532b4896cad4f4592c275b25f06a768&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/ahs-communications/interim-ceo-podcast-innovations-in-endoscopy?in=ahs-communications/sets/ceo-podcast/s-KJNNCcJX2v3&si=4532b4896cad4f4592c275b25f06a768&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

##### **Participate in local decision-making discussions**

Bring your ideas into the new year by helping us guide our path forward on local decision-making. (...more)

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The first AHS Update of 2023 comes to a close. I hope you all had a chance to find some rest and joy over the holidays, and I offer my best wishes to all of you, your colleagues and your loved ones in 2023.

Thank you for everything you do, each and every day.

**Dr. Francois Belanger**

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

