



## CMO UPDATE

Dr. Francois Belanger

*Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer*

*This Issue: National Physicians' Day; AHS Policies During a Provincial Election Campaign; Knowledge Resource Services Offers Clinical Information Tools; Career Opportunities; 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 eight 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**

- May 1 is National Physicians' Day
- AHS Policies During a Provincial Election Campaign
- Knowledge Resource Services Offers Clinical Information Tools
- Upcoming Sexual Violence Education Opportunity
- Career Opportunities
- Additional Resources for Physicians

#### **From the AHS Update**

- Action on Our Priorities
- Your Wellness
- COVID-19 Status and Cases in Alberta
- Show our volunteers you care
- CEO video message – celebrating our volunteers
- New technical control launches in Connect Care
- MS Teams chat retention extended for Connect Care launch
- AHS follows up on January's system outage
- Clinician Council seeking new members

- Positive results for virtual care: study
  - Learn more about Virtual Health in upcoming webinar
  - Ethics Lunch 'n' Learn — MAID criteria for mental health
  - Health Philanthropy Month starts May 1
  - Finding efficiencies through supply management
  - AHS celebrates Earth Day with Green 'n' Healthy newsletter launch
  - Virtual career fair highlights allied health
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## Medical Affairs News

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### May 1 is National Physicians' Day

On May 1, AHS is celebrating National Physicians' Day to recognize physicians across Canada. May 1 was chosen to honour the birthday of the first woman to practice medicine in Canada and a founder of Canada's women's movement, Dr. Emily Stowe.

As a physician, you consistently offer your time, expertise, care, and emotional energy in order to serve others. Thank you for all that you do to provide high-quality care to Albertans across the province. We are grateful to have medical staff who show excellence and humanity in patient care every day.

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### AHS Policies During a Provincial Election Campaign

As the province gears up for a provincial election campaign, it is important to have awareness of protocols for AHS leaders, staff and physicians contracted with AHS during this time. AHS has policies in place for guidance during an election, and we encourage you to read the following resources to learn more:

- Government of Alberta [Election Communication Policy](#): AHS follows the provincial government's which helps guide us as to what we can and cannot do during a provincial election campaign.
- AHS [Conflict of Interest Bylaw](#).
- AHS Conflict of Interest Bylaw [Political Activity Frequently Asked Questions](#) (internal resource, login required).
- AHS Ethics and Compliance guidance on [Political Activity](#) (internal resource, login required).
- [AHS' communication policy](#): Includes guidance on how individuals can participate in political events if they choose outside of work in a personal capacity.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your leader, or your communication advisor.

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## Knowledge Resource Services Offers Clinical Information Tools

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recently [announced the retirement](#) of several clinical information tools and library support services. The [Knowledge Resource Service \(KRS\)](#) offers AHS-affiliated physicians access to the same or comparable resources that were previously offered by the CMA. This includes Dynamed, literature searching, medical ebooks and practice guideline resources.

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### **Upcoming Sexual Violence Education Opportunity**

With Sexual Assault Awareness Month coming up in May, join us for a live and online interactive, information-rich lunch hour Zoom session with expert guests about systems' responses to sexual violence.

#### **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. via Zoom

The guest for this session is the Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse. They are the experts who provide sexual violence information, awareness, crisis support, and resources across Calgary.

Register [here](#).

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### **Support for Physicians**

The [Physician & Family Support Program](#) (PFSP) continues to offer CONFIDENTIAL services on an individual basis that you can access by calling the 24-hour assistance line at 1-877-767-4637.

AHS also has resources aimed at offering support to physicians. These are 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](#)
- [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](#)
- [Support Services: Well Doc Alberta](#)

## From the AHS Update

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

## Action on Our Priorities

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We are working to urgently address four key priorities. They are:

- Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

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

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### **Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times**

[New inter-facility ambulances roll out in Central Zone](#)

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### **Reducing surgery wait times**

[Expanding capacity at Chinook Regional Hospital](#)  
[Additional funding to increase surgical volume](#)  
[Surgical wait-list update](#)

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### **Improving patient flow and continuity of care**

[Additional funding to increase MRI, CT scan volumes](#)

## Your Wellness

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### **Get immediate access to wellness services**

Download the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) [e-AP](#) for support, any time, anywhere. [\(more...\)](#)

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## Mental Wellness Moment — mental health as part of overall health



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about why good mental health is important for overall health. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

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## Latest News

### COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta

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

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### Show our volunteers you care

Volunteers make a world of difference in the lives of patients, families and staff. National Volunteer Week runs until Saturday. [\(more...\)](#)

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### CEO message – celebrating our volunteers



We discuss the impact our volunteers have on the health system and the difference they make in the lives of Albertans. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

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### **New technical control launches in Connect Care**

Connect Care has launched a control to increase the protection of health information. ([more...](#))

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### **MS Teams chat retention extended for Connect Care launch**

Chat retention periods will extend from 24 hours to seven days, from May 6 to June 3. Review [best practices](#) for using Teams. ([more...](#))

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### **AHS follows up on January's system outage**

Many steps have been taken to safeguard AHS from experiencing a future outage, such as the one that affected AHS on Jan. 23. ([more...](#))

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### **Clinician Council seeking new members**

The Clinician Council is seeking nine clinicians from various disciplines to join. Applications close May 5. ([more...](#))

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### **Positive results for virtual care: study**

Results of a pilot study, [recently published](#) by several AHS staff and their research partners, highlight positive results for virtual care. ([more...](#))

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### **Learn more about Virtual Health in upcoming webinar**

[Register today](#) for a May 3 webinar — from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. — to gain a better understanding of AHS Virtual Health. ([more...](#))

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### **Ethics Lunch 'n' Learn — MAID criteria for mental health**

The next session of [the series](#) explores a case study based on changing medical assistance in dying (MAID) criteria for mental health. ([more...](#))

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### **Health Philanthropy Month starts May 1**

May is Health Philanthropy Month and, throughout the month, AHS will celebrate our philanthropic partners and their contributions. ([more...](#))

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### **Finding efficiencies through supply management**

The CPSM and Finance teams have been recognized for their high level of efficiency through automation. ([more...](#))

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### **AHS celebrates Earth Day with Green 'n Healthy newsletter launch**

AHS' Office of Sustainability is launching a quarterly newsletter that will highlight our organization's green initiatives. ([more...](#))

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### **Virtual career fair highlights allied health**

Know someone who is looking to grow an allied health career with AHS? Invite them to [register](#) for a virtual career fair on April 27. ([more...](#))

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### **Wrapping up**

Everything we do at AHS is made possible through the great teams we have within the organization, and the valuable partners we have in the community. As National Volunteer Week comes to a close, and Health Philanthropy Month approaches, I'd like to offer my gratitude to our tireless volunteers and to our philanthropic partners, whose generosity and altruism improve patient outcomes and experiences throughout the province every day. I'd also like to thank all of you for your contributions to delivering, or supporting the delivery of safe, high-quality healthcare in difficult and often stressful times. Together, we're an amazing and resilient team.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

### **Dr. Francois Belanger**

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

