

Medical Staff Update

This Issue: Message from the CMO: Gratitude for your efforts managing measles and wildfires; Hospital-based decision-making to expand; Modernized registration processes for IMGs to strengthen Alberta's physician workforce; and more.

Topics:

Message from the CMO

- [Gratitude for your efforts managing measles and wildfires](#)

Feature Stories

- [Edmonton Zone Virtual Home Hospital marks a record year](#)
- [World's largest islet transplant program celebrates 25 years](#)

Zone Highlights

- [North Zone: Virtual Emergency Physician Pilot Works to Address Service Disruptions](#)

Medical Affairs News

- [Hospital-based decision-making to expand](#)
- [Modernized registration processes for IMGs to strengthen Alberta's physician workforce](#)
- [Review updated Hazardous Medication List](#)
- [Attend the InfoCare Lunch & Learn Series](#)
- [How to write a discharge summary Primary Care Providers will love](#)
- [Register for AMA webinar - Support for the Physician Practice Improvement Program \(PPIP\)](#) (external link)
- [New Alberta Medical Association President-Elect](#) (external link)

Medical Leadership & Development

- [New medical leader joins physician experience team](#)

Resources for Physicians

- [Career opportunities](#)
- [Support for physicians](#)

- [Additional resources for physicians](#)

AHS Update

- Read the latest [AHS Update](#)
-

Message from the CMO

Gratitude for your efforts managing measles and wildfires

I want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for the work so many of you are doing to support AHS' response to the measles cases that we are seeing across the province, and especially within the South Zone. We have seen an increase in patient admissions and a strain on resources in some hospitals, which I know can be challenging. I am impressed by the great collaboration between zones, as patients have been transferred from rural zones to urban as required. I appreciate each one of you for your continued commitment to ensuring all patients receive safe, high-quality care.

At the same time, some zones are seeing impacts from wildfires, with some health facilities experiencing evacuations. These evacuations take an incredible amount of effort and coordination, and throughout it all, physicians continue to provide care to patients.

We know wildfires will continue throughout the summer and it is likely we'll continue to see the impact on our facilities. As you continue to work through these additional challenges, please remember to take care of yourselves and each other, and to reach out for support when you need it.

I appreciate everything you do, every day, to support patient care.

Dr. Peter Jamieson

Chief Medical Officer and Vice President, Clinical Operations & Quality

Feature Stories

Edmonton Zone Virtual Home Hospital marks a record year

Surgical patient Cheryl Bozek shares how care team helped her recover at home. [Read more](#) about this story.

World's largest islet transplant program celebrates 25 years

Edmonton Protocol now used globally to treat Type 1 diabetes. [Read more](#) about this story.

Zone Highlights

North Zone: Virtual Emergency Physician Pilot Works to Address Service Disruptions

Launched Jan. 20 in the North Zone (NZ), the Virtual Emergency Physician (VEP) pilot aims to address Emergency Department (ED) service disruptions when physicians are not physically on-site. Piloted in Hinton, Edson, Beaverlodge, Lac La Biche and Elk Point, the following successes have already been achieved:

- Over four months, provided 1,740 hours of coverage (97.3 per cent of hours without a physician on-site).
- In three months, nearly 600 patients seen that would have otherwise needed alternative options for care.
- Preliminary reports found patients generally accept the program with an average effectiveness rating of 7.0 (on a scale of 1 to 10).

This innovative program addresses a critical need to maintain safe and effective clinical care in our rural and remote communities. VEP has been extended through December 2025 and NZ expansion is being planned, along with consideration for other zones.

To engage Virtual Health for support with virtual care projects in your area, contact them [here](#).

Medical Affairs News

Hospital-based decision-making to expand

The province will be strengthening healthcare by giving hospitals more control to make timely, practical decisions that improve patient care. The move toward hospital-based leadership will bring more decision-making to the front lines, empowering hospital leaders to make real-time decisions based on what's happening on the ground and respond to patient needs as they arise. Acute Care Alberta will support coordination across the system and AHS will continue to play a key role focusing on operations across hospitals and oversight of hospital-based leadership.

This new hospital leadership structure will be introduced in November, with full implementation across Alberta by Summer 2026. These changes are part of ongoing healthcare refocusing efforts and the transition of Alberta Health Services to a hospital service provider. [Read more.](#)

Modernized registration processes for IMGs to strengthen Alberta's physician workforce

On Wednesday, June 18, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) announced steps they are taking to strengthen Alberta's physician workforce by streamlining registration processes for international medical graduates (IMGs) from approved jurisdictions.

Physicians who hold credentials from [approved jurisdictions](#) (Ireland, Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America) that have been deemed as substantially equivalent to Canadian standards will now be eligible for full licensure without undergoing additional assessments. This builds on the success of CPSA's Accelerated Jurisdiction Route (now renamed the [Approved Jurisdiction Route](#)), which has consistently demonstrated strong physician performance and safe patient outcomes.

From an AHS perspective, we see potential for an increase in applicants from approved jurisdictions. It also gives us opportunities to consider targeted recruitment campaigns that showcase Alberta's simplified licensing.

For more information, [read the news release](#) from the CPSA.

Review updated Hazardous Medication List

The [Hazardous Medication List](#) has been updated and posted on the [Hazardous Medication Handling page](#) on Insite.

See page 5 of the list for a summary of updates:

- Substantial NIOSH-driven changes with more than 30 reclassifications
- Addition of two (2) new medications as REPRODUCTIVE
- Prioritized reclassification of one (1) medication (semaglutide) from KNOWN to POTENTIAL

Note: All information systems are updated. Teams and program areas are required to implement these changes.

Questions? Contact hazardousmedication@ahs.ca.

Attend the InfoCare Lunch & Learn Series

Over the next month, the InfoCare team is hosting [Lunch & Learn sessions](#) to highlight popular topics and share the latest in privacy and cybersecurity. The sessions are open to everyone and offer an opportunity for Q&A with an InfoCare expert, including:

- Sharing Health Information in Alberta's New Healthcare Environment
 - June 25 from 12:00-12:30 p.m. – Register [here](#)
 - Alberta's New Privacy Legislation & You
 - July 3 from 12:00-12:30 p.m. – Register [here](#)
-

How to write a discharge summary Primary Care Providers will love

On June 25 from 12:00-1:00 p.m, join the next *Transitions in Care Talk: Improving the Quality of Discharge Summaries*, presented by Primary Care Alberta and hosted by Alberta Medical Association.

Dr. Rob Hayward from the AHS Clinical System Design team co-hosts this session. You'll hear a rural primary care physician and an acute care physician share their experiences related to sending and receiving Connect Care discharge summaries. Participants will also learn about an exciting new quality improvement opportunity aimed at enhancing the quality of discharge summaries.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Medical Leadership & Development

New medical leader joins physician experience team

Dr. Bhavini (Makwana) Gohel joins the Physician Experience team as the new Medical Lead for Professional Affairs.

Dr. Gohel brings a wealth of experience to this role. From her clinical experience as a family physician and hospitalist in Calgary, her clinical leadership experiences and her numerous roles leading work in Climate Crisis Adaptation and in resiliency and sustainability, she brings an enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to leading our provincial team of Physician Investigators on the Issues and Concerns team.

Resources for Physicians

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](#).

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.

Additional resources for physicians:

- [CPSA's Physician Portal](#)

- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)
- [AHS Physician Experience](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Physician Wellness Educational Resources: Well Doc Alberta](#)
- [Support Services: Well Doc Alberta](#)
- [2025 APL Lab Bulletins](#)

AHS recognizes that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8 and the homeland of the Otipemisiwak (Oh-teh-pim-swak) Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta and the eight Metis Settlements. We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.