

# Medical Staff Update

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## Features & Stories

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## Better way of removing blood clots a game-changer

The Interventional Radiology team at the Royal Alexandra Hospital recently cleared a patient's lungs of blood clots using a minimally invasive pulmonary thrombectomy procedure - all while the patient was awake. [Read more.](#)

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## Simulation makes every second count for trauma patient

A new simulation of Alberta Health Services' Direct to Operating Room pathway for critically injured patients who require immediate surgery. It aims to shorten the time to surgical intervention by bypassing the ED and moving directly from the helipad to a waiting OR, when clinically appropriate. [Read more.](#)

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## Medical Affairs News

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### Review new Optimizing Skin Integrity Policy

The new [Optimizing Skin Integrity Policy](#) provides guidance for screening, assessment, interventions, documentation, reporting, continuous learning and quality improvement for patients' skin integrity.

This Policy focuses on:

- Collaboration and partnership as key to the prevention and management of impaired skin integrity.
- Each program or site determines the specific roles and responsibilities of each healthcare provider and team.
- Patients to be screened and assessed using evidence-informed tools.
- Reporting in the Reporting and Learning System (RLS) (considered a clinical adverse event).
- Continuous learning and participating in quality improvement initiatives.

To learn more about this policy visit [Insite](#).

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### Review revised Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis Policy Suite

The revised [Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis Policy](#) and new [Venous Thromboembolism \(VTE\) Prophylaxis: Acute Adult Procedure](#) are now in effect. VTE is associated with increased patient mortality and is one of the

most common preventable causes of hospital death. It's important to follow the steps in the policy and procedure when it comes to minimizing the risk of VTE.

Key updates include:

- The policy now includes the pediatric population.
- Emphasis on ensuring that VTE prophylaxis is reviewed at care transitions.
- Consideration of early VTE prophylaxis for patients with prolonged stays in the Emergency Department.
- Clear guidance is provided on appropriate discontinuation of VTE prophylaxis.
- New guidance on spinal punctures.
- Emphasis on two-way communication and shared decision making.

Visit [Insite](#) to learn more.

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### Discover New Learning Tabs in MyLearningLink

Effective Sept. 10, the “Required Courses” tab in MyLearningLink have been retired and replaced with two new tabs:

- [Required Organizational Learning](#) – mandatory training for all staff and physicians.
- Required by Role – training for specific role functions.

Important: the Required by Role tab does not include all role-based training – only training tied to certain functions such as Connect Care. Speak with your leader about additional training required for your role.

This update provides easier navigation, helping staff quickly see which courses apply and complete required training, while giving leaders a clearer view to monitor progress and reinforce compliance.

Questions? Visit [MyLearningLink](#) to learn more.

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### Advance Care Planning Monthly Tip: Paper & Electronic Goal of Care Designation Orders

When asking someone if they have a Green Sleeve or Advance Care Planning/Goals of Care Designation (ACP/GCD) documentation, you may be given a paper-based or an electronically generated Goals of Care Designation order. Both are considered valid medical orders, even though they may look a little different.

Check out this month's [tip sheet](#) available on the provincial ACP/GCD [Insite page](#).

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## Medical Leadership & Development

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### Mistakes were made (mostly by me): A candid look at medical leadership (Provincial Medical Leadership Educational series)

Join us for the September Provincial Medical Leadership Educational series, where we'll explore the topic "*Mistakes were made (mostly by me): A candid look at medical leadership*" with Dr. Curtis Johnston.

Two sessions are available to pick from:

- Sept. 24, 4-5:30 p.m. | [Register](#)
- Sept. 25, 7-8:30 a.m. | [Register](#)

This session will enable physician leaders to be able to:

1. Identify common medical leadership mistakes encountered, drawing from personal and observed experiences.
2. Analyze the impact of these mistakes on individuals, teams and organizational culture.
3. Apply practical strategies to avoid similar pitfalls and transform mistakes into opportunities for growth and improved leadership effectiveness.

These sessions are CME accredited and are open to anyone who is interested. For more information, please email [Mercypina.Gutierrez@ahs.ca](mailto:Mercypina.Gutierrez@ahs.ca) or visit our [Together4Health](#) page (login is required).

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## Physician Learning

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## Register for The Working Mind™, a virtual mental health course for physicians and medical leaders

Alberta Health Services' (AHS) Physician Experience team is offering [The Working Mind™](#), a one-day virtual course from the Mental Health Commission of Canada. This course is offered to medical leaders, physicians and other medical staff across Alberta's Provincial Health Agencies, Provincial Health Corporations and Service Delivery Organizations.

Participants will learn practical tools to help:

- Promote mental health across their teams and organizations
- Transform the way they think and talk about mental health
- Recognize signs of poor mental health in themselves and others
- Strengthen coping skills to manage stress and maintain well-being
- Understand mental health rights and responsibilities
- Foster a supportive and psychologically safe work environment

**Date:** Friday, Oct. 10

**Time:** This session is broken into two sections with an optional afternoon module focused on medical leaders.

- All participants: 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Medical leaders: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

There are 15 spots available, so [register today to attend](#). More dates will be offered in 2026. A waitlist will be created, and those on it will be notified of future dates.

Questions? Email [PhysicianExperienceDWD@ahs.ca](mailto:PhysicianExperienceDWD@ahs.ca).

*Note: This course can be used toward a Personal Development Activity for the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.*

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## Hear about unique local approaches to providing follow-up care for unattached patients

Wondering how you can help patients who do not have a family doctor? Join the next Home to Hospital to Home (H2H2H) Transitions in Care Talk on supporting follow-up care for unattached patients, presented by Primary Care

Alberta and hosted by Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT), Sept. 23, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

You will learn about approaches from across the province that support timely follow-up care for unattached patients following hospital discharge. Hear how acute care and primary care have collaborated to support unattached patients in their follow up needs after discharge from hospital.

Register [here](#).

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## Register Now for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardiovascular Update for the Practicing Physician

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardiovascular Update for the Practicing Physician on Saturday, Nov. 22. This one-day course will provide participants with practical and up-to-date information on the management of cardiac problems. Participants will engage in a combination of interactive case-based workshops and presentations.

Hot topics relevant to your practice include Common Congenital Heart Conundrums, Effective Stroke Care, Cannabis and Cardiovascular Risk and more.

For more information and to register, please visit the website at [www.cvupdate.ca](http://www.cvupdate.ca).

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## Resources for Physicians

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### Career opportunities

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

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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.

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#### 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)
- [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.**