

Medical Staff Update

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Medical Affairs News

Celebrating National Physicians' Day on May 1

While we deeply value the contributions and expertise of physicians within Alberta's healthcare system every day, Alberta Health Services will join others in recognizing National Physicians' Day on May 1 — a date that 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.

Physicians provide high-quality, safe care for Albertans in every corner of the province, every day. You are there for patients during their good days and bad, not only providing care, but also comfort and support. On National Physicians' Day, we celebrate your professional accomplishments and the impact you have on the lives of others.

Showing appreciation for your physician colleagues can be as simple as sending one of our National Physicians' Day [e-cards](#), which will be added to the eCards soon.

Important update on the Quality & Healthcare Improvement portfolio

The Quality and Healthcare Improvement (QHI) portfolio is moving towards the implementation of a provincial service model, under the leadership of Dr. Victoria Suen.

Integrated Quality Management (IQM) teams and patient concerns consultants have been transitioned and realigned within the QHI provincial portfolio. The move to a centralized model within Alberta Health Services will strengthen alignment, ensure consistency and make the best use of resources.

We are finalizing the new QHI intake and prioritization process. In the interim, all new requests for initiative support, including requests for timelines and Quality Assurance Reviews, must be sent to QHI leadership for assessment and resource allocation.

- Tricia McBain, executive director, Quality and Patient Safety:
 - Quality Improvement
 - Patient Safety
 - Human Factors and eSIM
- Paul Wright, executive director, Accreditation, Patient Relations, and Engagement and Patient Experience
 - Accreditation
 - Engagement and Patient Experience
 - Patient Relations

[Read more](#) about these changes.

Action required: N95 fit testing

N95 fit testing is required every two years for physicians who may be required to wear an N95 respirator during their practice. An N95 is required for protection from airborne risks of Communicable Diseases (measles, chickenpox, during certain aerosol-generating medical procedures, etc.)

If you haven't completed a respirator fit test within the past two years, please arrange to do so. If you're already up to date, no further action is required. You can view your current fit test status in MySafetyNet by following the [Fit Test Record Tip Sheet](#).

Fit testing ensures:

- Your personal protection during aerosol-generating procedures and airborne communicable disease hazards.
- Protection of vulnerable patients.
- Compliance with Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

To arrange fit testing, contact your Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) Advisor using the appropriate link:

- Calgary: [N95 Fit Testing](#)
- Edmonton: [N95 Fit Testing](#)
- North: Contact your local [WHS advisor](#)
- South: Contact your local [WHS advisor](#)
- Central: Contact your local [WHS advisor](#)

In advance of being fit tested, you will need to complete the [Health Surveillance Questionnaire & Fit Test Record](#) and be clean shaven on the day of the fit test.

If you have completed fit testing outside of WHS fit testing clinics, please submit your documentation for verification to confirm N95 model availability to WHSSouth.Info@healthsharedservices.ca.

Understanding how anesthesia assistants support surgical care

The Acute Care Alberta Anesthesia Assistant Education Program (AAEP) has now been accredited by the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists, confirming that training and competencies of future Anesthesia Assistants (AA) meet national standards.

What this means for your practice:

- Consistent and reliable support in the OR and perioperative areas: accreditation ensures AAEP graduates are trained to a standardized national level.
- Improved patient safety and workflow efficiency: graduates are prepared to assist with safe, effective anesthetic care under anesthesiologist supervision.
- Future opportunities to recruit more AA: accreditation strengthens recruitment and retention by giving trainees a recognized pathway to Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistants (CCAA) certification. Graduates of the program are eligible to write the national AA certification exam and obtain the CCAA designation.

For more information, contact actprogramoffice@acutecarealberta.ca.

Advance care planning monthly tip: Finding ACP/GCD resources for patients and families

Ever wondered what you can do to help patients get the conversation started about advance care planning? Consider sharing the provincial advance care planning/goals of care designation (ACP/GCD) for patients and families [website](#).

This website has many ACP/GCD resources including the introductory [Conversations Matter guidebook](#) (available in 10 languages including Blackfoot and Cree), high-level overview of the different approaches to care a video library of patient stories and instructions for ordering a Green Sleeve kit. Check out this month's [tipsheet](#) available on [Insite](#).

Seeking physicians and experts for CPSA's Accreditation Expert Panel Roster

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) is recruiting physicians and subject matter experts to join their Accreditation Expert Panel Roster. Panel members will be invited throughout the year to participate in virtual monthly Accreditation Expert Panels or provide written opinions within their area of expertise.

CPSA is seeking specialists in radiology, laboratory medicine (including pathology and genetics), neurology, respirology, sleep medicine, surgical specialties (general surgery, ENT, plastics, orthopedics, gynecology), anesthesia and psychiatry. Physicians who regularly refer to these specialties,

including those in family medicine and general internal medicine, are also encouraged to apply.

To learn more about time commitments, compensation, responsibilities and how to apply, please visit [CPSA's website](#) or email expertaccred@cpsa.ab.ca.

Medical Leadership & Development

“Start solving the deep problems” (Provincial Medical Leadership Educational Series)

Join us **Wednesday, May 20 from 4-5:30 p.m.** for the next Provincial Medical Leadership Educational Series, where we'll explore the topic “Start solving the deep problems: Using the Cynefin Framework to lead within healthcare complexity” with Dr. Charlie Chen and Avery Acheson. [Register to attend](#).

By the end of this session participants will be able to:

- Describe the four key domains of the Cynefin Framework and their relevance to healthcare leadership.
- Distinguish between obvious, complicated, complex and chaotic contexts in clinical, organizational and leadership settings.
- Analyze common leadership challenges to determine the most appropriate decision-making approach.
- Apply the Cynefin Framework to clinical and system-level scenarios to guide leadership actions.
- Incorporate sense-making strategies into leadership practice to improve team effectiveness and decision-making under uncertainty.

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

Physician Learning

Addiction & Mental Health Knowledge Bites lunch & learn series

Join us on Thursday, May 28 from 12:05-12:50 p.m. for “Suicides of Elderly Patients Connected to Mental Health Services from 1999-2024”, presented by

Dr. Eric Chan. This event is free to attend over MS Teams or phone. [RSVP by May 26 to attend.](#)

There is more information on the [Knowledge Bites webpage](#). To be notified of future events in this series, subscribe to the [Knowledge Bites mailing list](#).

Mindful Practice in Medicine workshop and retreat

This three-day workshop and retreat hosted by the Centre for Mindfulness at the Cumming School of Medicine uses tools like appreciative inquiry, narrative medicine and insight dialogue to address some of the most common clinical challenges faced in our daily work. The retreat is at The Crossing at Ghost River from Oct. 14-17, 2026. There is a fee of \$1,995. [Learn more.](#)

Resources for Physicians

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](#).

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)

- [Well Doc Alberta](#)
- [2026 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.