

Medical Staff Update

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Feature Stories & News

New spinal surgery method brings faster recovery

The Calgary Endoscopic Spine Surgery Research and Advancement (CESSRA) program features a surgical technique that’s relatively new to Canada – the ultra-minimally invasive percutaneous endoscopic transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion (TLIF). This procedure involves five small punctures in the patient’s lower back – each about the diameter of a pencil – through which the damaged disc is removed.

The CESSRA program recently passed its first year in Calgary in January, treating more than 90 patients through its endoscopic approach. Dr. Michael Yang, a neurosurgeon at Foothills Medical Centre, says he hopes to see the annual number climb as his team continues to fine-tune their technique to reduce the time needed for each procedure. [Read more](#).

Medical Affairs News

Recognizing World Family Doctor Day on May 19

We are proud to join Primary Care Alberta in celebrating World Family Doctor Day, a day where we stop to recognize the important role of family physicians in our healthcare system and in the lives of their patients. This year, the Government of Alberta [declared](#) May 19, 2026, as “World Family Doctor Day in Alberta”.

Family physicians provide comprehensive, continuous care and support to patients through every stage of life. They also play important roles in their communities and within our hospitals, particularly in the many rural and remote communities across the province.

Today, and every day, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to the healthcare needs of Albertans.

Advance Care Planning monthly tip: Finding our frequently asked questions resource

Did you know that there is a [frequently asked questions](#) resource available on the provincial Advance Care Planning / Goals of Care Designation [website](#)?

This resource includes information about advance care planning, goals of care designations, Green Sleeves and clinical clarifications. Information is updated on an ongoing basis with guidance shared with members of the public, community health professionals and clinical teams.

For more information, see this month’s [tipsheet](#) available on the provincial ACP/GCD [Insite](#) page.

Physician Recruitment

Do you know a US physician interested in practicing in Alberta?

Alberta Health Services has an intentional recruitment strategy targeting US-trained and practicing physicians, which includes repatriating Canadians living and working in the USA.

Launched in 2025, this approved strategy aligns with expanded licensing pathways through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and with favourable market conditions. Early results have shown a 67 per cent increase in applicants from the US in 2025 compared to 2024.

If you know a US physician (or any physician) interested in working in Alberta, please direct them to the Doctor Jobs Alberta leads for personalized navigation support by emailing physicianleads@ahs.ca. This is a simple and valuable way to support physician recruitment across the province.

***Note:** This new “Physician Recruitment” section has been created to share some highlights of recruitment activity and initiatives within AHS that are helping us bring more physicians into Alberta’s acute care system.*

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

“Mental Health Act in Practice” webinar series

The Mental Health Act team is offering synchronous online sessions through the “Mental Health Act in Practice Webinar Series”, June 16 to 18, 2026.

[View upcoming dates and register](#) for information on exercising the authorities and meeting the responsibilities of the Mental Health Act. Three distinct webinars are offered, with multiple sessions and times available:

- Designated Facilities
- Non-Designated Facilities & Community Outpatient Sites
- Community Treatment Orders

Pre-requisite video (9 minutes): [Mental Health Act Key Terms](#). This video provides an overview of terms that are used in the Mental Health Act and associated Regulations.

Please email MHAandCTO.Enquiries@recoveryalberta.ca if you have questions about the Mental Health Act, or if you require a consultation. You can also visit our [website](#) or [Insite page](#).

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](#).

Check out this leadership opportunity with Acute Care Alberta:

- [Associate Chief Medical Officer](#) (1.0 FTE)
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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.

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](#)
- [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.