

Medical Staff Update

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Leadership Message

A note of gratitude and the summer ahead

As I step into this role in an acting capacity, I want to assure you that my primary commitment is to maintain stability, provide continuity, and ensure your voice is strongly represented through the office of the Chief Medical Officer.



At the heart of everything we do are two priorities: ensuring the delivery of high-quality patient care and supporting the wellbeing of our medical staff. My goal is to remove barriers and create an environment where you have everything you need to provide the best possible care for your patients and continue the exceptional work you do every day.

While managing our day-to-day operations remains vital, we are also looking ahead to the next six months. To keep us focused and aligned, I am having intentional conversations about what needs to be accomplished during this period to drive progress beyond our daily routines.

I want to tap into the incredible expertise across our teams to hear what priorities we should be focused on and what innovative ideas might help us get there. I have set up additional meetings in the coming weeks to have meaningful discussions around how we can achieve beyond the day-to-day.

I want to express my gratitude for your continued dedication. I recognize summer remains an incredibly busy time. I hope each of you can find time over the coming weeks for some well-deserved rest and rejuvenation with family and friends.

We will be pausing the Medical Staff Update over the summer months, resuming the regular schedule in September. However, if any urgent developments arise before then, I will ensure you receive a special edition of the newsletter or a direct email from me.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our patients. If you have any questions or feedback, reach out to cmo@ahs.ca.

Dr. Sarah Hall

Interim Vice President Quality and Chief Medical Officer

Leadership Announcements

Dr. Jane Ojedokun – Associate Chief Medical Officer, Rural Sustainability

In addition to her current role as Deputy Corridor Medical Lead, Edmonton, Dr. Jane Ojedokun has been appointed Associate Chief Medical Officer, Rural Health Sustainability. In this provincial leadership role, Dr. Ojedokun will provide strategic physician leadership to advance a more coordinated, sustainable, and resilient rural health system across Alberta.

Dr. Derek “Rex” Townsend – Medical Lead, Provincial Physician Compensation

A Clinical Professor of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Alberta and Hospital Medical Director for the University of Alberta Hospital, Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, and Kaye Edmonton Clinic, Dr. Townsend brings extensive experience in clinical care, academic medicine, and health system leadership and has been appointed to the role of Medical Lead, Provincial Physician Compensation.

Christina Green – Director, Office of the Vice President & Chief Medical Officer

Christina will be joining the Office of the Chief Medical Officer & Vice President, Quality, effective July 27. Christina will provide executive support helping to advance the strategic priorities of the portfolio and ensure the efficient coordination of executive operations.

Public Health Updates

Hantavirus (Andes Virus)

The risk of the hantavirus (Andes virus) in our province remains very low. Public health officials in Alberta, together with federal partners, are actively monitoring the situation closely.

There are resources available on [Insite](#) to support physicians, other frontline healthcare workers and staff, including:

- [Infection Prevention & Control interim recommendations](#)
- [Lab bulletin on testing for hantavirus](#)
- [FAQ: Hantavirus](#)
- [FAQ: Workplace Health & Safety](#)

We will keep you updated if the situation evolves. If you have questions, please reach out to cmo@ahs.ca.

Viral Hemorrhagic Fever

There is a current outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. The risk of Bundibugyo virus exposure in Alberta, and all of Canada, is low.

Public health officials in Alberta, together with federal partners, are closely monitoring the situation.

Ebola Virus Disease/Ebola is a Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF).

Information for [Albertans](#).

Infection Prevention & Control has updated the viral hemorrhagic fever training requirements to strengthen readiness and ensure consistent PPE practice when managing suspected cases. Workers who support patients with viral hemorrhagic fever, including physicians, are encouraged to complete the training modules on [MyLearningLink](#) (MLL). There are five modules:

- Module 1 & 2: Introduction and Overview
- Module 3: Buddy PPE
- Module 4: Healthcare Worker Gown PPE
- Module 5: Healthcare Worker Coverall PPE

After you log in to MLL, navigate to “Courses & Registration” and search the keyword “Ebola” or “Viral Hemorrhagic Fever”.

For more information, visit [Viral Hemorrhagic Fever](#) on our website.

Medical Affairs News

Retiring AHS health information access protocol

Provincial Medical Affairs and the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSA) retired the [AHS Health Information Access Protocol](#) as of June 1, 2026.

The functionality to document chart access and disclosure within Connect Care should be used instead of the protocol whenever a chart is accessed for the purposes of CPSA investigations.

For more information about this workflow, please review the [Quick Disclosure Tip Sheet](#). For more information about documenting chart access for indirect care, please review the [CMIO Tip Sheet](#).

Implementation of federal Bill S-228

[Bill S-228](#), an Act to amend the Criminal Code regarding consent for sterilization procedures, received Royal Assent through the Federal Government of Canada on June 15, 2026. Under this change, to perform any sterilization procedure, health professionals are required to ensure consent is voluntary, well-informed, appropriately timed, and properly documented.

AHS will continue to review consent policies, documentation practices, and training practices to ensure alignment with Bill S-228.

News: [Canadian Medical Association lauds bill amendment](#)

Ending specialty stipend program

As outlined in [Medical Bulletin 292 – Stipend Review Update](#), physicians participating in the Specialty Stipend programs were notified on June 25, 2026, that their stipends will end effective September 30, 2026.

These physicians have the option to either transition to an Alternative Relationship Plan (ARP) at new rates negotiated by the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) and Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS, Government of Alberta) or to fee-for-service (FFS) billing on October 1, 2026.

If you are interested in a new ARP, please ensure you have notified health.arpinfo@gov.ab.ca by August 17, 2026.

[More information about stipend transition.](#)

Thank you to the teams supporting our colleagues through the challenging transitions out of both family medicine and specialty stipend payments.

Physician Recruitment

Advertisement subscriptions help attract prospective physician recruits

Targeted advertising subscriptions are a key component of Alberta Health Services' physician recruitment strategy, enabling direct engagement with physicians in priority markets.

Platforms such as the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Careers and Doximity allow AHS to promote opportunities, build awareness and proactively reach physicians who may not otherwise seek out roles in Alberta.

This approach has demonstrated strong results. For example, BMJ advertising contributed to an 872 per cent increase in applications from UK-based physicians between 2022 and 2025.

Advertising subscriptions complement other recruitment strategies, including event attendance and lead navigation, by expanding Alberta's reach, increasing visibility in competitive markets and generating high-quality physician leads aligned with workforce priorities.

Physician Learning

AI for Health Care Professionals

On August 10, Calgary will host AI for Health Care Professionals: Precision, Practice, and Patient-Centered Innovation, a one-day event at the National AI Summit chaired by Dr. Khorshid Mohammad (Newborn Critical Care, ACH). Building on our 16-week Practical AI in Healthcare course (112 CME, international reach), the program covers AI at the bedside, safe prompting for clinical and academic work, AI-assisted literature search, manuscript

drafting, and governance.

This event will be a hybrid format; in-person seats at BMO Centre, Stampede Park are limited.

[Registration](#)

Resources for Physicians

Choking prevention & response in continuing care

For guidance on managing choking risks in continuing care and Goals of Care Designation (GCD), check out this month's [tipsheet](#) available on [Insite](#). The page also includes links to resources such as the [Choking Prevention & Response in Continuing Care FAQ](#), [ACP/GCD clinical clarification FAQ](#) & [Clinical Knowledge Topic scenario](#).

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](#)
- [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.