

Medical Staff Update

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Leadership Message

Looking ahead: Priorities for the months ahead



Colleagues,

As we move into fall, I want to recognize the work you do every day for patients, families, and one another. Our health system continues to evolve, and I know that this change is all happening alongside the day-to-day responsibilities of providing safe, high-quality care. It can be a lot to manage. Thank you for all you do!

Over the coming months, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer and Medical Affairs will focus on four areas:

- addressing patient flow and capacity issues in our acute care sites;
- strengthening medical leadership and physician engagement;
- supporting physician recruitment; and
- stabilizing rural and regional physician services.

Across each of these priorities, the experience, expertise, and leadership of physicians will continue to help shape how the work moves forward.

An important part of this work is strengthening the relationship between physicians, medical leaders, and the organization. That means listening, communicating clearly about what is changing and why, and ensuring physician perspectives continue to inform how our priorities are developed, implemented, and evaluated.

That commitment to listening, trust, and respect also extends to the patients and communities we serve.

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a time to honour the children who never returned home, Survivors of residential

schools, their families, and communities. In health care, reconciliation also means a commitment to addressing inequities in access, experience, and outcomes for Indigenous patients and families, and creating care environments where people feel safe, respected, heard, and supported. Across AHS, that work includes practical steps such as supporting Indigenous spiritual ceremonies and providing cultural supports.

For those looking to learn more beyond September 30, the virtual session [Accountable Reconcili-Action & Anti-Racism in Healthcare: Beyond Quick Wins](#) will take place on October 6, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The session will explore practical strategies and tools to address anti-Indigenous racism and advance Indigenous health equity.

Thank you for the care, reflection, and leadership you bring to your work, and to the patients, families, and communities we serve each day.

Dr. Sarah Hall
Interim Vice President Quality and Chief Medical Officer
Alberta Health Services

Medical Leadership Announcements

Five medical leadership appointments

- **Dr. Jennifer Nicol – Interim Medical Lead, Patient Flow and Physician Compensation:** Dr. Jennifer Nicol assumed the role of Interim Medical Lead, Patient Flow and Physician Compensation, effective September 1, 2026. In this role, she will work with the CMO Integration Council, service entity medical leaders, and Health Shared Services to support patient flow, optimize physician resources, and develop physician remuneration models that support clinical care delivery.
- **Dr. Warren Luksun – Physician Lead, Provincial Quality and Patient Safety:** Dr. Warren Luksun has been appointed Physician Lead, Provincial Quality and Patient Safety within Quality Healthcare Improvement (QHI). In this role, he will provide medical leadership to advance quality improvement, patient safety, and organizational learning across Alberta.
- **Dr. Colin Del Castilho – Interim Associate Chief Medical Officer:** Dr. Colin Del Castilho has been appointed Interim Associate Chief Medical Officer, Patient Flow and System Capacity, effective August 1, 2026. This shared role with Acute Care Alberta will provide physician

leadership across patient flow, system capacity, quality, and patient safety.

- **Dr. Misty Watson – Interim Corridor Medical Lead, Calgary Corridor:** Dr. Misty Watson will become Interim Corridor Medical Lead, Calgary Corridor, effective August 15, 2026. She will support collaboration among hospital-based leadership teams, clinical excellence, and site-level decision-making and accountability.
- **Dr. Mark Anselmo – Senior Medical Advisor, Patient Flow and System Capacity:** Dr. Mark Anselmo will transition from Calgary Corridor Medical Lead to Special Senior Medical Advisor, Patient Flow and System Capacity, effective September 1, 2026, where he will support priorities related to flow, quality, patient safety, and system integration.

Congratulations to Drs. Del Castilho, Watson, Anselmo, Luksun, and Nicol on their new roles.

Feature Stories & News

Stollery Children's Hospital opens new pediatric Surgery Clinic at Kaye Edmonton Hospital

The new Pediatric Surgery Clinic at the Stollery Children's Hospital expands from 14 to 23 flexible clinic and procedure rooms, with added diagnostic, rehabilitation, and procedure space. The purpose-built clinic is designed to support growing demand for pediatric surgical care and enhance multidisciplinary collaboration for physicians and care teams.

The clinic supports up to 275 patient visits each day and more than 28,000 annually. [Read more.](#)

Discharge by 11 a.m.

Progress through teamwork

Great progress is being made on earlier discharge across AHS sites. Teams are working toward the 40 per cent Discharge by 11 a.m. target, with progress varying by site, service, and patient needs. This work reflects collaboration among physicians, nursing, pharmacy, allied health, operations, patients, and families

Most importantly, clinical judgment and patient readiness come first. When we can identify likely discharges earlier and work together to address barriers, we can make beds available sooner for patients who need them.

Learn more about [Discharge by 11 a.m. and Conditional Discharge](#).

Medical Affairs News

AI tools supporting clinical workflows in Connect Care

Several AI tools are being evaluated to improve Connect Care workflows, including Epic's "Nebula AI" for inpatient, outpatient, ED, and discharge chart summarization.

These tools are intended to:

- reduce documentation time,
- support quicker chart review, and
- assist clinical decision-making.

Inpatient chart summarization and discharge summary "hospital course" drafting will become available to prescribers across the province in the coming months.

The ambient AI scribe "Jenkins" transcribes and summarizes patient-clinician conversations into clinical notes and is available to prescribers. A predictive AI function is also live in Connect Care to support expected discharge disposition decisions and will be evaluated for usefulness.

Retiring AHS health information access protocol

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

When accessing a chart for a CPSA investigation, document the access and disclosure in Connect Care rather than using the retired protocol.

- For guidance, review the [Quick Disclosure Tip Sheet](#).
- For chart access related to indirect care, review the [CMIO Tip Sheet](#).

Controlled Substances Policy Suite

The [Controlled Substances Policy Suite](#) aligns with legislative requirements, accreditation standards, and best practices for handling, storing, transporting, wasting, and documenting controlled substances.

New resources help managers monitor, investigate, and auditing controlled substances in their practice settings, including Connect Care reports, Automated Dispensing Cabinet reports (Pyxis/Omnicell), and audit tools.

Note: The Controlled Substances Policy Suite has not changed.

Questions? Contact: policy@healthshareservices.ca or practice.consultation@healthshareservices.ca. Learn more on [Insite](#).

Physician Engagement

Physician Engagement and Upcoming Physician Engagement Survey

The Sept. 16 Provincial Medical Leadership Educational Series explored what helps turn participation into meaningful physician engagement. Physicians will soon have an opportunity to share their perspectives through an upcoming engagement survey. Feedback from the survey will help identify opportunities for action and inform ongoing work to strengthen physician engagement.

Discussion points from Sept. 16:

- **Participation is only one part of engagement.** Attending meetings, completing surveys, and serving on committees do not necessarily mean physicians feel meaningfully involved.
- **Where physicians are involved matters.** Engagement is strengthened when physicians have a voice at the point in a decision where they reasonably expect to contribute.
- **Closing the loop matters.** Leaders should be clear about who is involved, how feedback was considered, and what happens next.

- **Clarity and responsive supports matter.** Clear expectations and timely practical support creates the conditions for meaningful engagement.
- **Trust is built over time.** Consistency, meaningful dialogue, opportunities to contribute and grow, and follow-through all shape engagement.

For physician leaders, the session reinforced the important role leadership plays in shaping the physician experience. Participation alone does not necessarily build trust if physicians do not believe their input has been meaningfully considered.

Takeaway: Meaningful physician engagement depends on clear opportunities to contribute, transparency about decision-making, and visible follow-through.

Call for Expression of Interest – AHS Physician Mentor, SMART Program

AHS Medical Affairs is looking for up to 10 physician mentors to support International Medical Graduates (IMGs) through the SMART Initiative.

The Sustainable, Multi-Collaborator Approach from Arrival to Readiness for Practice and Transition (SMART) Initiative helps internationally educated health professionals integrate into Alberta's health-care system.

Participating IMGs complete five weeks of structured learning and practice preparation, followed by six months of mentorship focused on workplace readiness and key competencies, including Medical Expert, Professional, Communicator, and Collaborator.

Interested physicians can contact Catherine.Keenan@ahs.ca for more information.

Please submit an up-to-date CV and expression of interest by October 2, 2026.

Share your feedback about AHS Pulse App

AHS Pulse app provides you with an opportunity to have your voice heard.

Use AHS Pulse app? Take three minutes to complete this [brief survey](#) and tell us what you like, what could be improved, and what you would like to see on the app.

Don't have Pulse app? Click here to scan the [QR codes](#) and join today. Log in using firstname.lastname@albertahealthservices.ca, not firstname.lastname@ahs.ca.

For login help or to share ideas, join an online [Office Hours sessions](#) or contact ahscomms@ahs.ca.

Physician Learning

“Mental Health Act in Practice” webinar series

The Mental Health Act Team is offering the *Mental Health Act in Practice Webinar Series* from October 27 to 29, 2026, with guidance on authorities and responsibilities under the Mental Health Act.

[View upcoming dates and register](#) for one of three webinar topics:

- Designated Facilities
- Community Outpatient Sites/Non-Designated Facilities, and
- Community Treatment Orders

For questions or consultation, email MHAandCTO.Enquiries@recoveryalberta.ca or visit our [website](#) or [Insite page](#).

Transitions for Youth and Young Adults with Eating Disorders and Mental Health Conditions: From Evidence to Practice

On October 7 from 12:05 to 12:50 p.m., learn about a Canadian guideline supporting transitions from youth to adult mental health services for youth and young adults with eating disorders and/or other mental health conditions.

The session will highlight practical recommendations, including collaborative transition planning involving young people, families, and providers, transition readiness assessment, and improved continuity and coordination of care.

RSVP to attend: [Addiction & Mental Health Knowledge Bites Lunch & Learn](#).

Recommended Reads and Listens

Antimicrobial Stewardship

The AHS Antimicrobial Stewardship [newsletters](#) provide short summaries of evidence-based, locally adapted information to help front line prescribers optimize their use of antimicrobials and management of infections.

AHS in the Media

Alberta Children's Hospital and Stollery Children's Hospital Earn Global Recognition

In Newsweek's [World's Best Specialized Hospitals 2027](#) rankings, Alberta demonstrated pediatric care on par with the best in the world. Alberta Children's Hospital and the Stollery Children's Hospital both secured places among the globe's top 50.

Strengthening Access to Advanced Robotics Care in Central Alberta

Strong media coverage was received with the [launch](#) of robotic-assisted surgery at Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, highlighting the benefits of the da Vinci surgical system and the physicians that provide specialized surgical care closer to home.

- [Red Deer Advocate](#)
 - [CTV Edmonton](#)
 - [rdnewsNOW](#)
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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](#)
- [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.