



Medical Staff Update - October 9, 2026

6 min read

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Medical Affairs News

Patient Focused Funding (PFF)

Overview: PFF, also known as activity-based funding, is a funding model that aligns funding more closely with the care patients receive. Hospitals are paid for the volume and type of procedures performed, based on a predetermined price.

PFF launched April 1, 2026, at 9 AHS pilot sites for hips, knees, shoulders and cataracts. 2026/27 is a learning year and the PFF model will be refined and expanded over the upcoming years as part of incremental implementation. Expansion to additional sites and new procedures is targeted for April 1, 2027.

Impact: While PFF aims to improve cost transparency and accountability, access and quality of care remain the priority. PFF is a funding model and is not intended to change clinical decision-making or patient care pathways. Access and quality of care remain the priority.

Physician engagement: Physicians have been among the stakeholder groups engaged since July 2025. Most recently, physician feedback was sought on proposed new procedures for expansion. Physicians will continue to be invited to participate in upcoming engagement sessions that will provide feedback on determining new procedures, PFF foundational education sessions and site-specific data variation sessions.

For general PFF inquiries, email the Optimization Team at Optimization@albertahealthservices.ca.

Updated Medical Device Reprocessing training videos now available

Updated Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) training videos are now available for AHS staff through [MyLearningLink](#) (search “MDR”) and to external partners on our [website](#). This single, standardized suite of 14 videos supports consistent MDR education and practices across all sites. The videos reflect current Canadian standards, align with AHS and Covenant Health practices, support Accreditation Canada requirements and meet the Government of Alberta MDR standards. They were developed and approved in collaboration with the Provincial MDR Working Group, Provincial MDR Quality Committee and AHS partners.

All staff who work in MDR are encouraged to view the updated videos. They provide consistent education for both new and experienced MDR staff as well as help leaders and partners better understand MDR practices, processes and responsibilities. Leaders and educators are encouraged to incorporate them into staff orientation, onboarding, training and ongoing education programs.

[Medical Device Reprocessing](#)

Review and implement updated Hazardous Medication List

The [Hazardous Medication List](#) is updated and posted on the [Hazardous Medication Handling page](#) on Insite.

Summary of changes in this version:

Added one (1) new medication to the list

- *methoxyflurane*, classified as POTENTIAL hazard

Note: All information systems are updated. Teams and program areas are required to implement these changes.

For more information, contact: hazardousmedication@ahs.ca.

Access MAID Medication Protocol on Insite

MAID Medication Protocol and Resources are now accessible on Insite. Previously, these resources were housed in a location accessible only to pharmacy services.

The new Insite page provides easier access to all healthcare professionals looking for the most recent medication protocol and resources, including frequently asked questions, medication inventory tracking sheet and administration records, contact information and more.

[Medical Assistance in Dying \(MAID\)](#)

Review updated DI anticoagulation guidelines

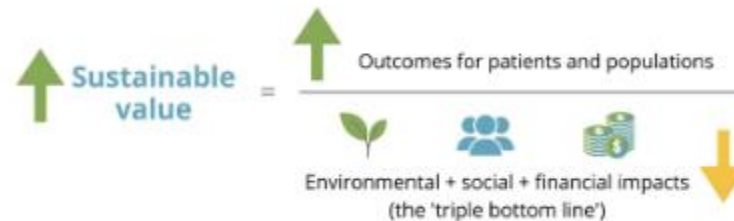
The [anticoagulation guidelines](#) for periprocedural management of patient bleeding risk have been updated. This resource supports safe conduct of image-guided procedures and is essential to ensure patient safety, and aligns with national guidelines from Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR)/ Canadian Association of Interventional Radiologists. Some of the changes include:

- Updated recommendations for platelet count and INR screening.
- New guidance regarding blood products including platelet transfusions
- Updated laboratory test validity timeframes
- Procedure categories have been simplified into low-risk and high-risk groups. The moderate risk category has been removed.
- Revised anticoagulant and antiplatelet medication management tables for both low-risk and high-risk procedures, including pre- and post-procedure recommendations.
- New guidelines for patients with chronic liver disease and information about bleeding risk assessment.

For more information, contact: DIPolicy.Support@ahs.ca.

AHS Sustainability and Resiliency

Canada's healthcare system accounts for about 4.6% of national greenhouse gas emissions. Building a low-carbon, climate-resilient healthcare system is therefore both an environmental and operational opportunity. Sustainable healthcare applies a "triple bottom line," improving patient and population outcomes while reducing environmental, social, and financial impacts.



Across Alberta, sustainability is being embedded into quality improvement through the Sustainable Quality Improvement (SusQI) framework. This work began several years ago and has included Green Team competitions at South Health Campus and across the Calgary Corridor.



To learn more, contact Dr. Bhavini Gohel: Bhavini.Gohel@albertahealthservices.ca

Physician Engagement

Shape our future: Patient Safety Culture and Our People Survey starts Oct. 20

AHS' Patient Safety Culture and Our People Survey begins Oct. 20 and runs until Nov. 6. Survey feedback will help us better understand opportunities and challenges across all sites, as we advance [our mandate](#). It takes about 10 minutes and is completely anonymous. Responses go directly to our survey partner, Gallup. Individual responses are not shared with leaders.

On Oct. 20, watch your AHS inbox for a survey invitation from physicianexperience@hssab.ca. You can also find a link to the survey on [AHS Pulse](#). Simply click on the link located in the Our People Survey article and follow the directions from there. Again, this is a Gallup link, and AHS will not have access to individual responses.

The survey asks about our patient safety culture and about your experiences as a practitioner at your primary site, department or program. Participate in shaping our future by sharing your experiences, ideas and perspectives.

Questions? Contact HR.Update@ahs.ca.

Community Kudos

Our teams do amazing things every day. To spotlight our successes and acts of kindness, AHS Pulse has launched Community Kudos — a dedicated space where you can share notes of appreciation and recognition for your colleagues with the AHS community.

It's a chance to say 'thanks.'

It's a chance to say 'job well done.'

It's a chance to say 'you made a difference.'

To recognize a colleague in Community Kudos, simply complete the [online form](#).

AHS Pulse app: Office Hours available

The AHS Pulse app delivers the latest AHS news, updates, features, and resources. Learn more about AHS Pulse.

Need help downloading, logging in to, or customizing the app? Join an upcoming Office Hours session.

Upcoming Office Hours sessions:

- Oct. 15, 2-2:30 p.m. | [Register](#)
- Oct. 20, 10-10:30 a.m. | [Register](#)

Questions? Contact ahscomms@ahs.ca.

Physician Learning

Provincial Medical Leadership Educational Series

Is physician engagement in Alberta at an all-time low? Part 2: A conversation with our CMOs

October 21 | 4 to 5:30 p.m. | Virtual

Continue the conversation on physician engagement with Chief Medical Officers, Associate Chief Medical Officers, and physician leaders.

The session will explore:

- Describe the key drivers of physician engagement: trust, respect, meaningful dialogue, involvement in decisions, and opportunities to contribute and grow.
- Explore practical approaches senior physician leaders use to strengthen engagement.
- Use engagement survey insights, including the Our People Survey, to identify opportunities for action.

Speaker: Dr. Curtis Johnston, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Medical Leadership and Development, with special guest panelists.

CME accredited. Everyone is welcome.

[Register](#)

Connect Care discharge planning enhancements

A new Connect Care video demonstration highlights updates to discharge planning tools that complement the predicted discharge disposition model. The enhancements make it easier to carry key information forward, reduce duplicate entry, and identify potential mismatches between medical readiness and level of care.

Additional information is available on the [Connect Care Manual: Discharge \(Transition\) Planning](#).

[Updated workflow in Connect Care](#)

Centre for Mindfulness: Reclaiming Our Wellbeing

February 16 to 19, 2027 | Sanctum Retreat

Join a three-day workshop focused on mindfulness, compassion, and empathic dialogue, with practical strategies to support physician wellbeing and manage clinical stress.

Cost: \$1,500, including accommodation, food, accredited CME, and GST.

[Centre for Mindfulness](#)

38th Annual CK Hui Cardiovascular Update

November 7

A one-day course offering practical, up-to-date guidance on managing cardiac conditions.

Participants will take part in interactive case-based workshops and presentations, with opportunities to network with colleagues and faculty.

Topics include:

- ECGs, Holters and device reports
- valve disease management
- outpatient cardiology
- ASCVD management beyond statins

- heart failure

For more information and to register, please visit the below link.

[CK Hui Cardiovascular Update](#)

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

[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](#)
or call 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.

