

Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) is a central access and intake program that receives surgical referrals and distributes them across Alberta.

- Orthopedic surgery and urology* joined FAST in 2022.
- Vascular surgery launched November 2023.
- General surgery launched February 2024.
- All surgical specialties added by 2025.

FAST is part of the Alberta Surgical Initiative – a plan that strives to ensure patients receive their scheduled surgeries within clinically appropriate targets.

FAST Tools to Support Providers:

- Multiple ways to submit referrals, including by fax, by eReferral or by Connect Care.
- Access to Zonal FAST teams, who will receive, review, and distribute referrals to surgeons. This includes communication back to referring providers about where the referral was sent.
- Referral pathways to guide what information is needed with a referral, including labs and diagnostic imaging.
- Standardized referral forms to help streamline the process.

How FAST Works:



Referring provider submits new referral form to Zonal FAST team. They can request:

- A next available surgeon with the shortest wait time.
- A specific clinic/site/provider.
- Out of zone provider.

FAST team reviews referral.

- If referral is incomplete, the referring provider is asked to provide the required information.
- If referral is complete, it is distributed to the appropriate surgeon's office for triage.

Surgeon receives the referral and triages.

- All further communication with the referring provider and patient about the referral will come from the surgeon's office.

FAST Benefits:

- Increased transparency – Providers can see the referral through its lifecycle.
- Together patients and referring providers can request the next available surgeon with the shortest wait time.
- Telephone support Monday to Friday to answer referral questions.

Stay tuned for more FAST updates, through:

- Email communications
- Newsletter and publication communications
- Updates to ahs.ca/FAST

Have Feedback?

- Contact ABFAST@ahs.ca

*Edmonton Zone urology is not on FAST. Please continue to submit referrals for Edmonton Zone urology via Alberta Netcare eReferral.