



## CMO UPDATE

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*Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer*

*This Issue: Reporting Clinical Adverse Events Using RLS; Update to the AHS/COV Hazardous Medication List; 2022 Cumming School of Medicine's Award Winners; News from the AHS Update and more.*

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*We would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaty 6, Treaty 7 & Treaty 8 and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta and eight Metis Settlements. We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.*

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*Note: Recognizing some medical staff use an alternate email address instead of an AHS email address, some information is duplicated from the AHS Update to ensure all AHS medical staff have all up-to-date organizational information that may impact their practice.*

### **Topics:**

#### **Medical Affairs News**

- Reporting Clinical Adverse Events Using RLS
- Update to the AHS/COV Hazardous Medication List
- 2022 Cumming School of Medicine's Award Winners
- Before Operational Stress Program
- Who You are Versus What You Do Session
- Support for Physicians
- Career Opportunities
- Additional Resources for Physicians

#### **From the AHS Update**

- Action on Our Priorities
- Your Wellness
- COVID-19 Status and Cases in Alberta
- Report clinical adverse events using RLS
- Interim CEO video message – recognizing the role of pharmacy teams
- Edmonton Zone shigella outbreak over

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## Medical Affairs News

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### Reporting Clinical Adverse Events Using RLS

In order to identify patient safety problems and make improvements, it is important to report hazards, close calls and clinical adverse events (CAEs).

AHS has a single, province-wide system for patient safety reporting called the [Reporting & Learning System for Patient Safety](#) (RLS). Anyone with AHS login credentials can access the RLS to report patient safety events.

All physicians have a responsibility to report patient safety events. When you report a CAE, close call, or hazard through RLS, the submission is reviewed, trended and shared to help us learn as an organization. Reporting helps to identify patient safety problems and to make improvements.

We encourage you to consistently submit CAEs and other patient safety problems using [RLS, available on Insite](#).

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### Update to the AHS/COV Hazardous Medication List

The Alberta Health Services (AHS)/Covenant Health (COV) [Hazardous Medication List](#) is updated and posted on the [Hazardous Medication Handling page](#) on Insite.

#### The changes to the List include:

- Addition of **14** new medications to the list, indicated by bold **BLUE** type
  - **3** classified as **KNOWN** hazard (mecasermin, tagraxofusp, talazoparib)
  - **2** classified as **POTENTIAL** hazard (enasidenib, pemigatinib)
- **9** classified as **REPRODUCTIVE** hazard (asciminib, avapritinib, capmatinib, selinexor, selpercatinib, selumetinib, siponimod, sodium phenylbutyrate-ursodoxicoltaurine, trastuzumab [plain])
- Change in Classification (from **POTENTIAL to KNOWN**) for **5** medications (chloramphenicol, cidofovir, diethylstilbestrol, lenalidomide, thalidomide)
- Removal of **1** medication from the list – ruxolitinib

#### Implementing these changes:

- The new AHS/COV Hazardous Medication List is **effective now**.
- Teams and program areas are expected to identify and address the steps required to implement the changes (e.g., storage, labelling, etc.) **prior to May 1, 2023**.

**Please note:**

- Pharmacy Information systems (including Meditech, BDM, and Sunrise Clinical Manager) have been notified and will implement these changes.
- Requests for medication record (ERX) changes within Connect Care, and Compounding and Repackaging (CNR) have been submitted.
- Changes within Connect Care may be delayed due to build capacity.
- All information systems will not be updated at the same time.
- Due to the potential lag time in updating the information systems, follow the PPE precautions as identified in the *AHS/COV Hazardous Medication List*, as the list is the source of truth.

Please subscribe to “Insite Alerts,” found on the [Hazardous Medication Handling page](#) on Insite, to be alerted of future updates to the *AHS/COV Hazardous Medication List*, the Hazardous Medication PPE Guide or other related resources.

**For Your Awareness - Medications reviewed by PHMC and classified as Non-Hazardous:**

- bimekizumab, dostarlimab, hydrochlorothiazide, ixekizumab, luspatercept, ofatumumab, pitolisant, ranibizumab, ravulizumab, somatrogen, tixagevimab-cilgavimab

Please contact [hazardousmedication@ahs.ca](mailto:hazardousmedication@ahs.ca) with any questions or concerns.

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### **2022 Cumming School of Medicine's Award Winners**

Each year, the Cumming School Medicine recognizes the outstanding achievements and notable awards won by our faculty, staff and students. Congratulations to the 2022 Cumming School Medicine's [award winners!](#)

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### **Before Operational Stress Program**

Until March 31, 2023, all AHS employees are able to access a free online program called Before Operational Stress (BOS). Knowing your jobs are stressful, BOS is a program offered through Wayfound Mental Health designed to help you take charge of your mental health. For more information click [here](#).

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### **Who You are Versus What You Do Session**

Alberta Medical Association's Physician and Family Support Program is hosting a virtual session on **March 14, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Many physicians are struggling and this session will allow participants to explore how leaning into vulnerability can enhance their lives and help them find meaning and increase fulfillment.

Learn more and register [here](#).

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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 has also developed new resources aimed at offering support to physicians. These are now available online:

- [Webinar](#)
  - [Resource Guide](#)
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## Career Opportunities

Practice opportunities across a broad range of specialties are available. All vacant AHS physician practice opportunities are posted on our physician recruitment website, [Doctor Jobs Alberta](#).

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## Additional Resources for Physicians:

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Healthcare Professional information page](#)
- [COVID-19 Immunization Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Community Physicians](#)
- [CPSA's Physician Portal](#)
- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)
- [MD News Digest](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Physician Wellness Educational Resources: Well Doc Alberta](#)
- [Support Services: Well Doc Alberta](#)

## From the AHS Update

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You can read the [full version online](#).

## Action on Our Priorities

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We are working to urgently address four key priorities. They are:

- Improving EMS response times.

- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing wait times for surgeries.
- Improving patient flow throughout the healthcare continuum.

Much of this work is underway. We will continue to use this update to highlight actions being taken to urgently address our priorities.

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### **Improving patient flow throughout the healthcare continuum**

[Workforce supports coming](#)

[PRIHS funding announced to support digital health projects](#)



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### **Reducing wait times for surgeries**

[Surgical wait-list update](#)

## Your Wellness

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### **Access enhanced stress support**

Stress is a natural reaction to changes but prolonged stress can be harmful. Get the support through [Burnout and Stress Solutions](#). [\(more...\)](#)

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### **Mental Wellness Moment — the connection between food and mood**



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell – Provincial Medical Director of Addictions and Mental Health – discusses the connection between mood and food. ([more...](#))

Watch Video

Listen as a Podcast

## Latest News

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### COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta

Latest hospitalizations, ICU update and information on variants of concern and wastewater surveillance. ([more...](#))

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### Report clinical adverse events using RLS

To identify patient safety problems and make improvements, it is important to report hazards, close calls and clinical adverse events. ([more...](#))

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### Interim CEO message – recognizing the role of pharmacy teams



Guest host Colleen Turner with Tania Mysak and Steven Freriks

The important and evolving role pharmacy professionals play in the delivery of patient care in Alberta is the topic of this week's vlog. ([more...](#))

Watch Video

Listen as a Podcast

### Edmonton Zone shigella outbreak over

A shigella outbreak that impacted Edmonton Zone residents was declared over on Feb. 16. ([more...](#))

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### **Investment to strengthen primary healthcare**

The [Government of Alberta announced](#) this week proposed funding to strengthen primary care in the province. ([more...](#))

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Let me end this AHS Update with a simple message of gratitude for all you do — for patients and their families, for one another, and for advancing our four key priorities. In fact, we're seeing improvements in all four priority areas, and I'm excited to share details with you soon.

Thank you for your ongoing hard work, ingenuity and professionalism.

**Dr. Francois Belanger**

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

