



This Issue: Ensuring Safety of Health Information; Critical Leadership Conversations Course Part Two; Francophone Symposium of Health Leaders; Eighth Annual RAH Hospital Medicine Update; Help Patients Maintain Immunization Coverage; Career Opportunities; Resources and Supports for Physicians; News from the AHS Update and more.

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.

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

- Ensuring safety of health information
- Critical Leadership Conversations Course Part Two
- Francophone Symposium of Health Leaders
- Eighth Annual RAH Hospital Medicine Update
- Help patients maintain immunization coverage
- Career opportunities
- Support for physicians
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From the AHS Update

- Action on Our Priorities
- Your Wellness
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 - CEO video message – explore the archives
 - Review the updated Do Not Use List of Abbreviations policy
 - Check out the latest Green 'n Healthy Newsletter

- Influenza site champions needed
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Medical Affairs News

Ensuring safety of health information

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is dedicated to protecting privacy and ensuring patient, health and corporate information is secure. To accomplish this, AHS has resources and tools through [InfoCare](#) and [Ethics and Compliance](#) for AHS medical leaders and medical staff to help protect, use and appropriately share personal, health and AHS business information both internally and externally.

Consistent with the AHS value of accountability, AHS is committed to fostering workplace conduct that increases public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of AHS clinical and business activities.

When fulfilling your duties and responsibilities related to your role as a representative of AHS, you have a duty to ensure your private interests do not improperly interfere with or influence your activities at AHS. Conflicts of interest arise when your private interests influence or interfere, or could be perceived to influence or interfere, with AHS decision-making. Conflicts of interest can also arise if you improperly use (or are perceived to improperly use) AHS resources or processes to benefit your private interests. For example, if you sit on an AHS committee and your private interests will be impacted by the decision of that committee, you should declare that as a conflict of interest to the committee so that the issue can be appropriately managed.

Some situations involve an intersection of privacy expectations and managing conflicts of interest. For example, it is a breach of the AHS Privacy Protection and Information Access Policy, Medical Staff Bylaws, and Code of Conduct for AHS medical staff to disclose Tableau data or internal memoranda/communications outside of the organization without appropriate advance permission to do so. If the unauthorized disclosure is done to promote or support the private interests of the physician or a group that they support or are affiliated with, the improper disclosure could also be a breach of the Conflict of Interest Bylaw.

It is important to have awareness of policies and procedures available to provide guidance for accessing and sharing patient, health and AHS information for AHS leaders, staff and physicians contracted with AHS. We encourage you to review the following resources to learn more:

- [Access to Information \(Physical, Electronic, Remote\) Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Collection, Access, Use, and Disclosure of Information Policy](#)
- [Community Engagement and Communications Policy](#)
- [Conflict of Interest Bylaw](#)
- [InfoCare Moments archive](#)
- [List of InfoCare resources](#)
- [Medical Staff Bylaws \(sections 4.0.6, 4.07., 4.0.8\)](#)

- [Privacy Protection and Information Access Policy](#)
- [Social Media Policy](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to your leader, or your Communications Advisor.

For information about InfoCare, please visit [InfoCare on Insite](#) (login required) or contact ahs.infocare@ahs.ca.

For information about managing conflicts of interest at AHS, please visit [Ethics & Compliance on Insite](#), or contact complianceofficer@ahs.ca.

Critical Leadership Conversations Course Part Two

You are invited to participate in the second part of the Critical Leadership Conversations series - Accountability conversations and Managing Physician Concerns. This virtual course will run from Sept. 7 through Nov. 2.

Facilitated by Dr. Curtis Johnston and Heather McMorrow, this course will be a series of five one-hour virtual lectures and large group discussion sessions delivered over eight weeks. This course will demonstrate the skills necessary for holding accountability conversations in the context of being a medical leader in AHS.

Part two of the series builds upon the skills gained during our Critical Leadership Conversations Part 1, but please note taking the first course is **not** a pre-requisite.

Dates	Time	Registration Link
Sept. 7	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register Here
Sept. 21	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register Here
Oct. 5	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register Here
Oct. 19	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register Here
Nov. 2	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register Here

To find out more about participation expectations and benefits, please contact lori-ann.paul@ahs.ca for more information.

Francophone Symposium of Health Leaders

The Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL) is pleased to present the Francophone Symposium of Health Leaders on September 28 and 29. This symposium will provide health leaders with an opportunity to explore various themes and learn from the challenges faced by health leaders.

The conference will take place in Montreal and is open to participants from across the country. **Please note, this conference is available in French only.**

To learn more about this symposium and to register, click [here](#).

Eighth Annual RAH Hospital Medicine Update

Join the eighth annual [RAH Hospital Medicine Update](#) virtual two half-day conference on September 23 and 24, 2023.

Available to all physicians across Canada, this conference brings together experts to update participants in various areas of practice including multiple myeloma, small bowel obstruction, chronic pain and methadone, treatment of myocardial infarction, chronic renal failure, and more.

To register, click [here](#).

Help patients maintain immunization coverage

Alberta Health Services is currently preparing for the arrival of a small number of refugees from the Dadaab Refugee Complex in Kenya, which is facing an ongoing outbreak of polio. With increasing numbers of refugees being re-settled in Canada, maintaining high immunization coverage is important to the health and well-being of newly arrived migrants as well as the general population.

Immunization is the best form of prevention against polio and individuals who are unimmunized or under-immunized can be at risk of developing the disease if they are exposed. In Alberta, an inactivated poliomyelitis containing vaccine (IPV) is recommended for all children as well as for adults at increased risk of exposure to poliovirus.

In addition to ensuring your immunization status is up to date, physicians are advised to:

- Ensure all patients are up-to-date with their immunizations, including polio (as per the [Alberta Immunization Policy](#)).
 - Consider polio in the differential diagnosis of patients with polio-like symptoms, especially if the patient resided in a refugee camp and/or is a newcomer to Canada, is unvaccinated or under-vaccinated, or recently travelled to a country where polio still occurs or was exposed to a person who travelled to these areas.
 - Collect specimens for laboratory testing if polio is suspected. It is important to consult with the microbiologist on call (MOC) for all suspected cases **before ordering testing**.
 - Report suspected cases of polio to your local Medical Officer of Health.
 - For clinical symptoms of polio, refer to the [canada.ca](#) health professionals page.
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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](#).

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. These are available online:

- [Webinar](#)
 - [Resource Guide](#)
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Additional resources for physicians:

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
 - [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](#)
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From the AHS Update

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

Note on COVID-19 Reporting

This AHS Update does not include a section on COVID-19 reporting. The number of patients with COVID-19 in ICU and non-ICU hospital beds is currently stable. We are prepared to resume COVID-19 reporting in this update in the event of increasing COVID-19-related hospitalizations that could add further capacity pressure on our teams and on the health system.

Action on Our Priorities

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

- Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

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

Reducing surgery wait times

[Surgical wait-list update](#)

[AHS partners with recognized improvement organization](#)

Your Wellness

Caregiver support available

If you are caring for an elderly or sick family member, there are supports for you through the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment — how nature affects mental well-being



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about how getting outdoors, especially in green spaces, can improve one's mental well-being. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

CEO video message – explore the archives

The AHS vlog is on a break for this edition of AHS Update, but I encourage you to [check out the archives](#) to learn about the work of our great teams.

Review the updated Do Not Use List of Abbreviations policy

The [Do Not Use List Of Abbreviations, Symbols, And Dose Designations For Medication-Related Documentation Policy](#) and resources have been revised. [\(more...\)](#)

Check out the latest Green 'n Healthy Newsletter

The latest edition of [The Office of Sustainability's newsletter](#) features green strategies to consider while driving. [\(more...\)](#)

Influenza site champions needed

Help improve staff access to influenza immunization by becoming a [site champion](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Wrapping up

I want to re-iterate how proud I am of the work you do, whether you are providing care on the frontlines or work behind the scenes to support Albertans. You are the best at what you do, which I know takes a lot of effort. With that, it's important we find time for breaks when we can. This week's mental wellness moment is a great reminder about the importance of getting outdoors. As Dr. Mitchell says, it's proven to improve both mental and physical health. So if you can, I encourage you to get outdoors now and again to recharge and enjoy the sunshine.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.