



CMO UPDATE

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Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

This Issue: Former DynaLIFE physicians' contracts; Join the Physician Healing Group this Fall; Register for Geriatrics Update – Clinical Pearls Course; Sexual Violence Awareness Education Sessions; 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

- Former DynaLIFE physicians' contracts
- Join the Physician Healing Group this Fall
- Register for Geriatrics Update – Clinical Pearls Course
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- MD Culture Shift Newsletter
- Career opportunities
- Support for physicians
- Additional resources for physicians
- September celebrations

From the AHS Update

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 - DynaLIFE, APL integration begins
 - Emergency management service earns AHS staffer federal award

Medical Affairs News

Former DynaLIFE physicians' contracts

Lab physicians who formerly worked for DynaLIFE no longer have valid contracts, as their contracts with DynaLIFE were automatically terminated as per provisions in their independent medical contractor services agreement. They have been offered APL contracts with similar terms and conditions, as per the lab physician grid compensation rate. Although not specified in the contracts, the overflow payments for community work will continue, and more formal messaging around this will follow. Ongoing discussions will take place with AMA throughout the month to clarify information and DynaLIFE physicians have until Sept 25 to review and sign their contracts.

APL is a signatory on the Lab Physician Master Agreement, together with AHS and the AMA Section of Laboratory Physicians (ASLP) that guides the monetary elements of physician contracts.

Physicians who previously contracted to DynaLIFE will be remunerated at the lab physician rate, similar to what they received at DynaLIFE.

The current lab services agreement is currently under negotiation and is in the arbitration phase and any changes to the new lab physician agreement will also apply to all APL physician contracts.

Join the Physician Healing Group this Fall

We are committed to developing a safer and more inclusive workplace for our physicians. Starting Sept. 20, we are offering a facilitated peer-support group for AHS physicians who self-identify as having experienced trauma or psychological injury (such as racism or discrimination) in the workplace. This discussion group will be a facilitated space to share experiences and receive support.

The discussions are not equivalent to therapy, but you may find them to be therapeutic. Previous attendees commented that:

- "It was helpful to hear that others are facing the same challenges."
- "I felt very safe asking questions without fear of being judged."
- "These discussions are great investments into my mental, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being."

The group will be hosted weekly on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. from Sept. 20 to Oct 25. Discussions will be led by trauma-informed physician co-facilitators, Dr. Ileen Taylor, Family Physician and Dr. Monique Jericho, Psychiatrist. Participants and facilitators are jointly responsible for creating a safe space.

Please email rosalie.krause@ahs.ca to register, as a limited number of spots are available.

Register for Geriatrics Update – Clinical Pearls Course

On September 21 and 22, a virtual course through the University of Calgary will be held focusing on clinical pearls for the care of complex older patients across the continuum of care. A blend of plenary short snappers and panels discuss the best practices for managing common health issues in older adults.

Register [here](#).

Sexual Violence Awareness Education Sessions

In partnership with Alberta Health Services, the Cumming School of Medicine's Sexual Violence Educator, Dr. Kiara Mikita, will be facilitating a series of educational lunch hour workshops throughout September. Guest speakers include members from UCalgary's Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Team, a local Crown Prosecutor, and representatives from the Sexual Violence Survivors Legal Advice Program.

You can view the entire collection of workshops and register [here](#).

MD Culture Shift Newsletter

Check out the [September edition](#) of the MD Culture Shift newsletter.

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](#)

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](#)

September celebrations:

- [World Suicide Prevention Day](#) (Sept. 10)
- [World Patient Safety Day](#) (Sept. 17)
- [Healthcare Simulation Week](#) (Sept. 18 – 22)
- [National Day for Truth & Reconciliation](#) (Sept. 30)

To see more AHS celebrations, visit the [Celebrating Health page](#).

From the AHS Update

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

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

[Groundbreaking of Enoch Cree Nation's new surgical facility](#)
[New program improves access to hip, knee surgeries in Fort McMurray](#)
[Surgical waitlist update](#)

Improving patient flow and continuity of care

[New supportive living spaces opening in Wainwright](#)
[Edmonton-area pediatric clinic helps families access care](#)
[Ponoka hospital adds new transition beds](#)

Your Wellness

Wellness seminars available

[Wellness seminars](#) are available to help you and your team learn strategies to improve your well-being. ([more...](#))

Mental Wellness Moment — what causes sleep problems



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about what causes sleep problems and how to sleep better. ([more...](#))

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

E. coli outbreak in Calgary Zone

Thank you to all teams responding to the [E. coli outbreak](#) declared at six locations of a Calgary daycare and an additional five locations. ([more...](#))

AHS Vlog – Our People Survey opens Sept. 12



Guests on the AHS Vlog discuss Our People Survey and how it helps us learn what we're doing right and where we can improve. ([more...](#))

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

DynaLIFE, APL integration begins

The integration of DynaLIFE lab services and employees with Alberta Precision Laboratories officially started on Sept 1. ([more...](#))

Emergency management service earns AHS staffer federal award

The Executive Director for AHS Emergency/Disaster Management was given an Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award. ([more...](#))

Wrapping up

With the fall season just around the corner, I end this AHS Update with a message of gratitude for your hard work and flexibility over the summer months. Hopefully, most of you had a chance to get some rest this summer and feel refreshed as we head into the fall (and respiratory illness) season. I also encourage everybody to take five minutes and complete the *Our People Survey* when it arrives in your inbox next week (open Sept. 12 to Oct. 4). Your anonymous, confidential feedback will help us better support you and your colleagues as you care for Albertans and each other.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.