



CMO UPDATE

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

This Issue: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Education Sessions; Our People Survey; AHS QI Work and CPSA Licensing; New Repository for Patient Safety Communications; Various Upcoming Conferences and Seminars; 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.

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Medical Affairs News

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation education sessions

Education is at the heart of reconciliation. With that in mind, the Indigenous Wellness Core has organized three education sessions on Sept. 29 to share more about the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Sessions start at 9 a.m. and include *Acknowledging the Truths*, *Truth & Reconciliation*, and the *Sixties Scoop*. To register, please visit [Together4Health](#).

This site also lists events taking place around the province to honour residential school survivors and all the children who never made it home. Video recordings will be posted on Together4Health once the sessions are complete.

More information can be found on [Insite](#).

AHS' Patient Safety Culture and Our People Survey closes Oct. 4

If you haven't had the chance to complete AHS' *Patient Safety Culture and Our People Survey*, be sure to share your thoughts before it closes at midnight on Oct. 4. It takes about five minutes and is completely anonymous.

Search your AHS email for a secure survey link from Gallup, AHS' survey partner.

Leaders, be sure to [check your participation rates](#) to see where your team is at and encourage participation. The more voices we hear, the more representative results will be.

Resources and supports are available on [Insite](#). Questions? Email Engage@ahs.ca.

AHS quality improvement work counts toward CPSA Licensing

Right Care Alberta is our AHS approach to helping patients and providers choose evidence-based care that is appropriate, effective, and sustainable. Supported by the [Improving Health Outcomes Together](#) (IHOT) team and partners across the healthcare system, AHS is implementing several quality improvement initiatives focusing on reducing unnecessary tests, treatments, and procedures, addressing unwarranted variation, and facilitating shared decision making to improve outcomes.

Your participation may be used towards the CPSA - [Physician Practice Improvement](#) quality improvement standard of practice requirements. Track and submit your contributions with the Physical Learning Program's [MyPI tool](#).

For more information about how to get involved with the IHOT quality improvement work, contact i.hot@ahs.ca.

New centralized repository for Patient Safety Communications

A new repository of patient safety communications has been developed to assist the organization with raising awareness of identified patient safety risks. The new [Patient Safety Communications](#) Insite page houses documents such as Patient Safety Alerts, Safer Practice Notices, Patient Safety Memos, Patient Safety Learning Summaries and RLS Trends. Sign up for alerts to be notified when new content is added to this Insite page.

New Diagnostic Imaging software coming soon

Over the next two years, AHS will be updating our Diagnostic Imaging software. Agfa IMPAX will be upgraded to Agfa Enterprise Imaging, providing an AHS-wide solution for image management.

The project also includes upgrades to the image viewer used by clinicians in Connect Care and Netcare. The new software will minimize impacts to patient care and provide workflow enhancements for physicians and technologists.

Additional information on timelines and staff impacts will be provided over the coming months.

Questions? Contact ProvincialEnterpriseImaging@albertahealthservices.ca.

Register today for Virtual Health webinar exploring MyAHS Connect

MyAHS Connect is the patient portal provided by AHS that offers patients personalized and secure online access to their Connect Care health record. Please join the Virtual Health and MyAHS Connect teams on Oct. 18 from 11:45

a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to learn how MyAHS Connect can be integrated into your clinical practice.

[Register to attend.](#)

Join the Physician Healing Group this fall

We are committed to developing a safer and more inclusive workplace for our physicians. 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 by Zoom on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m from Sept. 20 to Oct. 25. And registration is ongoing. Discussions will be led by trauma-informed physician co-facilitators, Dr. Ieleen 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.

Mental Health Act in Practice Webinar Series

The Provincial Mental Health Act Team is offering our fall *Mental Health Act in Practice* Webinar Series, Oct. 31 – Nov. 9. Three distinct sessions will be offered: Designated Facilities, Community Outpatient Sites/Non-designated facilities & Community Treatment Orders. Register [here](#).

Email MHAandCTO.Enquiries@ahs.ca for any questions or consultation you may require with regards to the Mental Health Act. You can also visit [our website](#), or [Insite page](#).

Register for the PADIS Clinical Toxicology Conference

On Nov. 4, this intensive, one-day in-person clinical toxicology course will be of interest to anyone who provides care to poisoned patients. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists and paramedics whose practice includes emergency medicine, critical care medicine or internal medicine will find this course useful.

At the end of this course, learners will be equipped to describe the diagnosis and management of common toxicological conditions; illustrate the evidence used to guide treatment of the poisoned patient and examine current controversies in the use of antidotes in patient care. This year's featuring keynote is *Treatment of Cardiotoxic Poisoning: Past, Present, and Future* from Jon B Cole, MD, FACEP, FACMT, FAACT.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Current Obstetrical Management Seminars

Join us on Oct. 20 from 8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. for a virtual program to review and update your knowledge and management of normal and abnormal obstetrical cases. Issues with respect to newborn care, lactation, preconception care and planning, women's mental health and postpartum management will also be covered.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Rural Obstetrical Management Seminars

Join us on Oct. 19 from 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for a virtual program to review and update your knowledge and management obstetrical cases specific to rural practice. Issues with respect to newborn care, lactation, preconception care and planning, women's mental health and postpartum management will also be covered. This conference is associated with Current Obstetrical Management Seminars (COMS).

Learn more and register [here](#).

Register for the 2023 Diabetes & Endocrine Update

Join us on Nov. 18 from 7 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. for this one-day course which will provide physicians and healthcare professionals with the latest in Diabetes as well as an approach to common Endocrine problems.

This Group Learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Alberta Chapter for up to 7.00 Mainpro+ credits.

Learn more and register [here](#).

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](#).

E. coli Response Update

Thank you for the dedication and efforts of all the groups and disciplines managing the ongoing E. coli outbreak in the Calgary Zone. [\(more...\)](#)

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.

Decreasing emergency department wait times

[Hardisty emergency department reopens](#)

Reducing surgery wait times

[Surgical waitlist update](#)

Improving patient flow and continuity of care

[Drayton Valley upgrades to improve patient flow](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities including:

Mental Health and Addiction

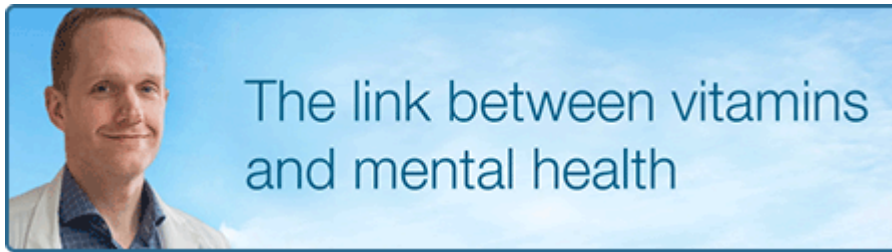
[Wilderness-based recovery centre opens doors today](#)

Your Wellness

Get family and parenting supports

Fall is a time of transition. The [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#) offers [Life Smart Coaching Services](#) that can help. [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about supplements and vitamins, especially Vitamin D, and whether they can affect mental health. ([more...](#))



Latest News

AHS Vlog – spotlight on Indigenous Support Line



Guests on the AHS Vlog discuss the Indigenous Support Line, which helps Indigenous Persons navigate the healthcare system. ([more...](#))



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation education sessions

Staff are encouraged to take part in virtual learning opportunities on Sept. 29 in honour of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. ([more...](#))

Review PPE guidance to prepare for rise in respiratory illnesses

Respiratory illness activity has increased in Alberta, along with COVID-19 positivity rate and patients in hospital with COVID-19. ([more...](#))

Be heard! *Our People Survey* closes Oct. 4

Oct. 4 is the final day to take *Our People Survey*. It takes about five minutes and is completely anonymous. ([more...](#))

New centralized repository for patient safety communications

A new repository of patient safety communication documents has been developed on [Insite](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Register for webinar exploring MyAHS Connect

Join the AHS Virtual Health team on Oct. 18 to learn about MyAHS Connect and how you can integrate it into clinical practice. [\(more...\)](#)

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.