



CMO UPDATE

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This Issue: MD Culture Shift; New Patient Safety Course; Ask an Ethicist; Physician Learning; Medical Affairs Recruitment Events; Apply for HQCA Patient Experience Awards; \$10M Grant Opportunity; Coding Changes for Pressure Injuries; 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

MD Culture Shift Newsletter

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

New patient safety course designated as required learning

[PPS100 Culture of Patient Safety](#) course is designated required learning for physicians. This facilitated course is part of the [Academy for Quality Improvement Sciences](#) (AQIS).

For physicians, only this **facilitated** course is eligible for continuing professional development credit from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (6 hours of Section 3 credits) and the Canadian College of Family Practitioners (4 Mainpro+ credits).

Visit [MyLearningLink](#) and search “QPSE” for course dates and registration. If you need assistance with registration, email gpse@ahs.ca.

Ask an ethicist your questions on November 8

Do you run into ethical dilemmas in your work? Do you want to know more about the ethical issues you encounter every day?

On Nov. 8 from noon – 1 p.m., the [Clinical Ethics Service](#) is hosting an “Ask an Ethicist” panel on Zoom where we answer questions that are most important to you!

- Click [here](#) to register
- Click [here](#) to submit a question in advance

Nov. 5-11 is National Health Ethics Week—an opportunity to bring people together and encourage conversations about health ethics issues

Weekly Sexual Violence Awareness Webinars

Until Nov. 29, join the new weekly Wednesday Sexual Violence Awareness Webinars series. Share your questions and learn about how learning about sexual violence can allow us all to do better, individually and collectively, in creating safer and healthier communities to live, learn, and work in.

UCalgary's Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Team will be hosting these weekly conversations that draw upon years of work, research, and frontline experience to make sense of timely and critical issues impacting local communities.

Learn more and [register here](#).

Critical Leadership Conversations Course Part 1

You are invited to participate in the **second offering** of Critical Leadership Conversations course that will be delivered in a unique format to optimize learning, practice, and reflection. This virtual course will run from Nov. 23 through Feb. 8, 2024.

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 eleven weeks where you will learn the skills necessary for planning, delivering, and concluding a critical conversation.

Dates	Time	Registration Link
Nov. 23	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register here
Dec. 14	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register here
Jan. 11	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register here
Jan. 25	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Register here
Feb. 8	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.

Physician Learning

There are many learning and development opportunities outside of AHS offered to physicians. Here are some upcoming opportunities:

- Cardiovascular Update for the Practicing Physician – Nov. 18 – [Register](#)
 - Diabetes and Endocrine Update 2023 – Nov. 18 – [Register](#)
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AHS Medical Affairs Recruitment Events

Physician recruitment is a priority for AHS, and we know that physicians living and working in Alberta are our biggest recruitment asset. AHS Medical Affairs is developing a strategic advertising, marketing & recruitment event plan both nationally and abroad to attract physicians in innovative, effective and cost-efficient ways.

Physician conferences and relationship building events are an effective method for promoting AHS and our recruitment needs in an increasingly competitive international environment. We also know that word of mouth referrals, physician-to-physician are one of our best strategies.

If you are attending any of these upcoming events, we would like to hear from you. Please drop by our booth, or reach out to us through your Zone AHS Medical Affairs team or CMO@ahs.ca to share your ideas to enhance recruitment opportunities, or if you have recommendations for physician recruitment leads we should follow.

In addition, if you are planning to attend a conference and think that there might be a strategic recruitment opportunity for AHS at the event, please reach out.

Below is a current list of events AHS Medical Affairs will be attending:

- [Family Medicine Forum](#)
Montreal
November 8-11, 2023
 - [Alberta Family Medicine Summit](#)
Banff
March 1-3, 2024
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Apply for the HQCA Patient Experience Awards

The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) Patient Experience Awards recognize and spread knowledge about initiatives that improve patient experience in accessing and receiving healthcare services.

We encourage all people, teams and initiatives to apply for this award through the [HQCA website](#) by Nov. 17. See the [user guide](#) for more information about criteria and the application process. Read about the recipients from 2023 (many were AHS teams) [here](#).

All applicants will be contacted in December by HQCA.
Questions? Email info@hqca.ca.

Grant helps physicians reduce administrative burden, improve patient care

Do you have an idea on how to reduce the administrative burden facing physicians? If so, you could receive between \$500,000 and \$1 million, thanks to the Health Care Unburdened Grant program, a \$10M grant funded by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), MD Financial Management and Scotiabank.

They are looking for ideas that help with one or more of the following:

- Streamlining or reducing required documentation or administrative work.
- Improving efficiencies to processes and practices.
- Reimagining resourcing and teaming to reduce the administrative burden.

Anyone can apply, but they must ensure their project team includes a physician or medical learner and at least one of the following:

- Patients/caregivers,
- Health system administrators,
- Healthcare leadership/decision-makers,
- Policymakers, or
- Other healthcare providers.

If you have an idea to submit, you can do so until Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. ET. You can view the application checklist and start an application [here](#).

If you have additional questions, check out the CMA's [FAQs](#) or reach out to funding@cma.ca.

Coding changes for documented pressure injuries

Pressure injuries documented by any regulated healthcare provider are now coded and captured by Health Information Management as directed by Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). This change came into effect for acute and long-term care in April 1, 2022.

Regulated healthcare providers can now document the stage and location of the pressure injury on discharge/case summary, report of history and physician exam, progress notes, consultation reports.

Learn more [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](#).

Highlighting Low FTE and Remote Opportunities

- [Medical Director, AHS EMS Mobile Integrated Healthcare](#)
 - Location: Any Zone
 - FTE: 0.5
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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 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](#).

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.

We also continue to work on improving local decision-making, and making sure that local teams and sites are supported. Much of this work is underway. We will continue to use this update to highlight actions being taken to address our priorities.

Improving patient flow and continuity of care

[Launch 7 of Connect Care goes live Sunday](#)

[Lab appointment capacity increases in Calgary](#)

[AHS to reopen Breton Medical Clinic next week](#)

[New sexual health clinic opens in Ponoka](#)

[ED renovations underway at St. Therese-St. Paul Healthcare Centre](#)

[AHS to open after-hours clinic next year in Picture Butte](#)

Decreasing emergency department wait times

[Cochrane wait times now online](#)

[Dental clinic opens for uninsured, low-income Albertans](#)

Reducing surgery wait times

[Surgical waitlist update](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities including:

Continuing Care

[Norwood West at the Gene Zwozdesky Centre opens](#)

Your Wellness

Access counselling services

Healthy coping strategies are needed to navigate day-to-day challenges. Short-term counselling can offer tips for your well-being. [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about how culture can affect mental health and how AHS supports people from culturally diverse backgrounds. ([more...](#))

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

AHS Vlog – Institute for Healthcare Optimization (IHO)



Guests discuss our partnership with the IHO, which helps us improve surgical outcomes and experience. ([more...](#))

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Respiratory virus update

The Government of Alberta's [respiratory virus dashboard](#) includes reporting for influenza, COVID-19 and RSV. ([more...](#))

Coding changes for documented pressure injuries

Pressure injuries documented by any regulated healthcare provider are now coded and captured by Health Information Management. ([more...](#))

New patient safety course designated as required learning

The PPS100 A Culture of Patient Safety course is now required learning for employees and physicians working in clinical service areas. ([more...](#))

Vote for your Halloween contest favourites

Finalists have been selected for our annual AHS Halloween Costume and Decorated Space contest. Please [vote](#). ([more...](#))



Ask an ethicist your questions on Nov. 8

Bring your ethics questions to an Ask an Ethicist event on Nov. 8. ([more...](#))

Webinars highlight Virtual Health successes, collaboration

[Register](#) for Virtual Health Highlights 2023, where we'll celebrate the great work taking place in the virtual care space. ([more...](#))

Apply for the HQCA Patient Experience Awards

All AHS people, teams and initiatives are encouraged to [apply for the HQCA Patient Experience Awards](#). Deadline is Nov. 17. ([more...](#))

Patient experience initiatives focus of upcoming virtual showcase

Join us at the next virtual showcase on Nov. 8, as we highlight patient-centred programs improving patient experience. [Register here](#). ([more...](#))

Wrapping up

You and your colleagues are important to me, and your contributions are critical to the delivery of high-quality care for Albertans. Please do what you can to keep yourself, your loved ones and your colleagues safe. I encourage you to protect yourself and others during respiratory illness season, including by getting your influenza and COVID-19 immunizations if you haven't done so already.

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) immunization clinics are now open. You can [walk in](#), [book online](#) or call 811 to make an appointment. To get the influenza vaccine, you can also check your facility for a roving cart or get immunized by a site champion on your unit. This year, you will have the option to receive an mRNA XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine and an influenza vaccine at the same booking at participating [WHS clinics](#).

You can also get immunized at local pharmacies, doctors' offices and public health clinics. Households with children under five can get immunized at AHS public health clinics. Learn more at ahs.ca/vaccine. If you choose any of these options, please submit a [Got My Flu Shot form](#) on Insite.

Respiratory virus season always places additional demands and pressures on all of us. So please remember to lead with kindness and respect, and to be good to yourself and others by staying home if you're sick. Thank you for everything you do, each and every day.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

