

Medical Staff Update

This Issue: Physician Learning; Measles Case in Alberta; Virtual Home Hospital; Vascular Surgery joined FAST; Changes to Addictions and Mental Health in Connect Care; Career Opportunities; Resources and Supports for Physicians; News from the AHS Update and more.

AHS recognizes 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

- [MD Culture Shift Newsletter](#)
- [Critical Leadership Conversations Course Part 1](#)
- [Increase your understanding of human factors to enhance patient safety](#)
- [Physician Learning](#)
 - Talking with Men about Men and #MeToo – Dec. 4-8
 - Pediatric Fractures & Dislocation course – Jan. 18
 - 26th Annual Rural Anesthesia for GP Anesthesiologists – Jan. 19
 - 40th Annual Emergency Medicine for Rural Hospitals – Jan. 19-21
 - Mindful Practice in Medicine Workshop – Feb. 21-24
- [Measles case in Alberta](#)
- [Virtual Home Hospital transforming healthcare delivery](#)
- [Grant helps physicians reduce administrative burden, improve patient care](#)
- [Vascular surgery joined FAST on Nov. 27](#)
- [Changes to Addictions and Mental Health inpatient consult orders in Connect Care](#)
- [Career opportunities](#)
- [Support for physicians](#)
- [Additional resources for physicians](#)

From the AHS Update

- Action on Our Priorities

- Your Wellness
- Latest News
 - Sign up for Secret Santa by Dec. 1
 - Register for AQUIS courses
 - Register for Dec. 20, Jan. 11 Disaster Rounds Lunch 'n' Learns
 - 2022-2023 IPC annual report now online
 - Toys for Tickets campaign returns

Medical Affairs News

MD Culture Shift Newsletter

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

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.

Increase your understanding of human factors to enhance patient safety

Human factors studies the interrelationship between humans, the tools and equipment they use in the workplace, and the environment in which they work. During this 3-day course, you will explore the role of human factors in healthcare using hands-on activities and case studies in various clinical areas.

We are pleased to co-host this upcoming course with HQCA, W21C and the University of Calgary, with course offerings in both Edmonton and Calgary. Learn more [here](#).

Physician Learning

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

- [Talking with Men about Men and #MeToo – Dec. 4-8](#)
 - [Pediatric Fractures & Dislocation course – Jan. 18](#)
 - [26th Annual Rural Anesthesia for GP Anesthesiologists – Jan. 19](#)
 - [40th Annual Emergency Medicine for Rural Hospitals – Jan. 19-21](#)
 - [Mindful Practice in Medicine Workshop – Feb. 21-24](#)
-

Measles case in Alberta

AHS Calgary Zone is reporting a lab-confirmed case of measles in an infant. This case is travel-related and was not acquired in Alberta. However, the case was infectious from November 21- 28, 2023 and may have exposed others in several locations during their infectious period. Public Health is following up directly with individuals who have a known exposure.

To read the full memo click [here](#).

Virtual Home Hospital transforming healthcare delivery

Did you know there is a Virtual Home Hospital (VHH) in both Edmonton and Calgary zones that can help increase acute care bed capacity by using VHH beds for patients instead of brick-and-mortar beds for some or all of their hospital stay?

This transformative program plays an important role in the sustainability of our healthcare system.

VHH patients receive the same safe, high-quality multidisciplinary care they would receive in the hospital, but from the comfort of their own home or other safe location. Care is provided through a mix of in-person home or hospital facility visits and virtual technology, depending on their needs.

Physicians play an important role in identifying patients who could be admitted to a VHH. There are specific criteria to help guide physicians in determining whether VHH is right for a patient; your zone VHH can tell you which patient is the best fit for their program.

Requests for inpatient consultations for admission to VHH can be done in Connect Care by ordering “Inpatient consult to Virtual Home Hospital”.

The Edmonton Zone VHH is open to all sites; the Calgary Zone VHH is currently only available at Rockyview General Hospital (RGH) and South Health Campus (SHC). A VHH Provincial Framework is currently in development. This will provide a standardized provincial model and support expansion across other zones. You'll receive more information about this in early 2024.

For information about referral criteria in Edmonton or Calgary, contact:

- Edmonton Zone (all sites): EZVH@ahs.ca | 1-866-604-0499
 - Calgary Zone (RGH): 1-403-943-3344 ext. 1
 - Calgary Zone (SHC): 1-403-956-4455 ext. 1
-

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.

Vascular surgery joined FAST on Nov. 27

On Nov. 27, vascular surgery was added to the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program. FAST is a central access and intake program that receives surgical referrals and distributes them to a next available surgeon with the shortest wait time, a specific clinic/provider/site or an out of zone provider.

Referring providers who refer into FAST for vascular surgery should review the new [Provincial Adult Vascular Surgery Referral Pathway](#) for referral instructions and can submit referrals via fax, Alberta Netcare eReferral or Connect Care using the outgoing referral process.

For more information, visit ahs.ca/FAST.

Changes to Addictions and Mental Health inpatient consult orders in Connect Care

As part of optimization work underway, Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) inpatient consult orders in Connect Care will now be restricted by site, rather than applied to every site provincially as previously configured.

The site-based consult orders will make it easier for ordering users to understand which services their sites receive through consulting providers. It also allows consulting providers to better manage their consults by site. Users may see net new consult orders available to them.

This change came into effect at noon on Thursday, Nov. 30. It impacts ancillary and physician consult orders at specific sites across Alberta. Psychiatry consultants with a net new consult order will have new consult lists to personalize, and all attendings have workflow changes to be aware of.

If you have any questions, please direct it to Dr. Echo Enns at cmio@ahs.ca.

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](#)
-

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.

AHS also continues to work on improving local decision-making, and ensuring local teams and sites are supported. Much of this work is underway. This update will continue to highlight actions being taken to address our priorities.

Improving patient flow and continuity of care

[Connect Care now in more sites, programs across Alberta](#)
[Lab appointment capacity increases in Calgary](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities including:

Quality and Patient Outcomes

[Self-referred lung cancer screening available to eligible Albertans](#)

Your Wellness

Online cognitive behavioural therapy available

Cognitive behavioural therapy for depression and anxiety is available through the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about how adults can support children who are being bullied. Last week was Bullying Awareness Week. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

Sign up for Secret Santa by Dec. 1



AHS Secret Santa
Spread some joy with a holiday card! ▶

Today is the final day to [sign up](#) and be paired with your Secret Santa. Help spread joy across AHS this holiday season. [\(more...\)](#)

Register for AQuIS courses

The [Academy of Quality Improvement Sciences](#) offers various certificate programs related to patient safety and quality improvement. [\(more...\)](#)

Register for Dec. 20, Jan. 11 Disaster Rounds Lunch 'n' Learns

Join discussions with subject matter experts on their experience with healthcare disasters. [\(more...\)](#)

2022-2023 IPC annual report now online

AHS' Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) 2022/2023 annual report has been approved and is now [posted](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Toys for Tickets campaign returns

The [Toys for Tickets campaign](#) is back, allowing people to donate a new toy rather than paying their AHS parking fine. [\(more...\)](#)



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.