

Medical Staff Update

This Issue: Physician Learning; New Specialty Joins Alberta FAST Program; Alberta Organ and Tissue Donation Program; 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.

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 - 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
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Medical Affairs News

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
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:

- [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](#)

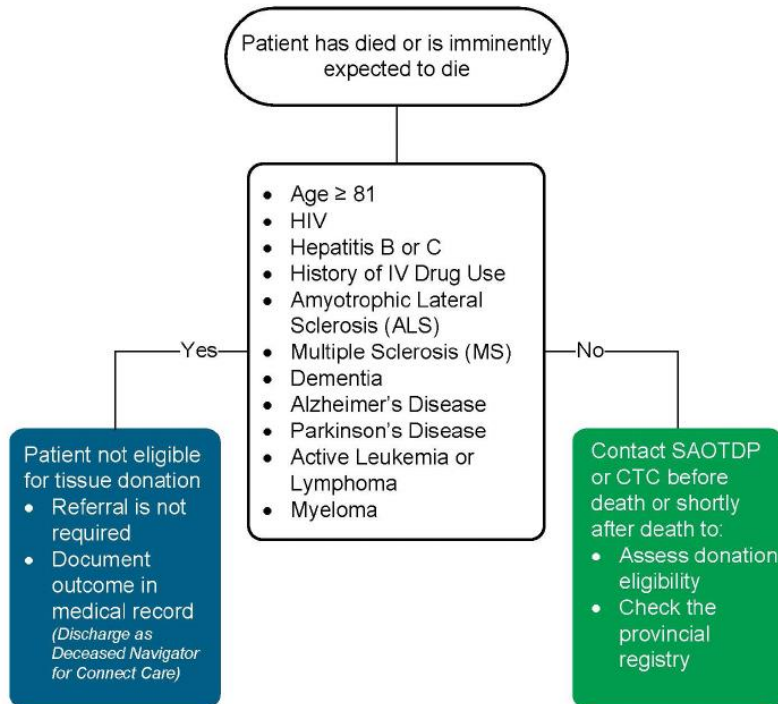
The Alberta Organ and Tissue Donation Program: Helping families give life

Organ donation rates in Alberta have steadily increased over the past several years while tissue donation rates are stagnant. Hundreds of Albertans are waiting for life-changing gifts of corneas, bone, soft tissues, skin and heart valves.

The Alberta Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act requires Medical Practitioners to notify the Alberta Organ and Tissue Donation Program when a patient has died or death is imminent. Donation teams will assess a patient's eligibility, check previously registered intent to donate online, and provide further guidance 24/7. Contact [On-Call / ROCA](#).

Tissue Donation Pathway

Mandatory Referral to the Donation Organization



For Red Deer & South contact the Southern Alberta Organ & Tissue Donation (SAOTDP) Program via ROCA Zone (Calgary) – Role – Donor Coordinator

For North of Red Deer contact the Comprehensive Tissue Centre (CTC) on-call via RAAPID at 780-735-0811

Learn about the AHS Virtual Care Evaluation Framework

Please join the Virtual Health team and special guests from Evaluation & Analytics, Primary Health Care Integration Network, for a webinar where we'll introduce the [AHS Virtual Care Evaluation Framework](#). This presentation will be useful for anyone in AHS wishing to evaluate virtual care services.

The webinar will provide an overview of why the framework was created, how it was developed and what's included. The Virtual Health team will also be providing an update on the Virtual Care Shared Data Model, a shared virtual care data repository in the Enterprise Data Warehouse.

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024

Time: 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[Register to attend.](#)

Add your voice to Volunteer Resources' survey

We invite you to give us your views in the Volunteer Resources brand [survey](#).

Our provincial teams coordinate the work of the 9,000 people who volunteer with Alberta Health Services every year. Our volunteers give hundreds of thousands of hours to Albertans without being paid.

The time, care and contributions all volunteers share with our patients, residents, families, staff and physicians add to the quality-of-care Albertans receive.

What we learn from our [survey](#) will help shape volunteer experiences at AHS as well as programs and services to support them and the people they work with. Our survey is open until Jan. 10.

Please contact brand.toolkit@ahs.ca if you have questions about the Volunteer Resources brand project.

2024 Annual Information Verification Attestation (AIVA) New Look

2024 AIVAs are just around the corner and will have a new look!

The Service Now platform upgraded, allowing for opportunities to improve user experience.

In your 2024 AIVA, you will navigate pages rather than tabs, and will be prompted to confirm you have reviewed a page before moving to the next. Progress is saved, so if you are pulled away, you can return to your AIVA and complete within the same day. You will also receive a PDF copy of your completed AIVA via email.

Completing your AIVA should take about five minutes.

New specialty joins Alberta FAST Program

Vascular surgery has joined the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) central access and intake program province wide. Through FAST, referring providers can choose a next-available provider with the shortest wait time, a specific clinic/provider/site, or an out of zone provider. Vascular surgery referrals can be submitted via fax, Alberta Netcare eReferral and Connect Care using the outgoing referral process.

Tools to support vascular surgery referrals include:

- New [Lower Limb Ischemia clinical pathway](#) – Use as a first step to see if your patient’s condition can be managed in the medical home before a referral is required.
- New [Provincial Adult Vascular Surgery Referral Pathway](#) – If a referral is necessary, reference this document for mandatory information to include with your referral.
- New [vascular surgery referral form](#) – Use this form when submitting vascular referrals through FAST. Referral form will be added to EMRs in the coming months.

For specific Zone referral information, go to ahs.ca/FAST and click on your Zone under *Provider Information: How to Use FAST*.

Alberta Pathways Hub – Pathways of the Week

The provincial central location for trusted, evidence-informed clinical, patient and referral pathways, the Hub is maintained by the Provincial Pathways Unit (PPU) with your help. The PPU is requesting assistance from primary care providers in reviewing the below pathways – please take a look and email AlbertaPathways@ahs.ca if you have feedback.

- [Non-Obstructing Kidney Stone Clinical and Patient Pathway](#)
- [Prostate Specific Antigen \(PSA\) Testing Primary Care Pathway](#)
- [Provincial Head & Neck Cancer Diagnosis & Referral Pathway](#)

Explore more pathways at www.albertapathways.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](#)
- [CPA'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](#).

Update on Capacity Pressures

This AHS Update starts with gratitude to all of you for your hard work and dedication during this time of high demand in our urban and rural hospitals, including in our emergency departments and ICUs. It is a coordinated, provincial effort across all sites to ensure that we are able to care for all patients despite capacity pressures. ([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.

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

[New space for IV therapy treatment opens in Strathcona](#)

[Nurse practitioners added to Sylvan Lake ambulatory care service](#)

Your Wellness

Combat seasonal stress

Take care of your well-being this holiday season through support provided by the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about what people can do to have a healthy holiday season. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

New President & CEO starts at Alberta Health Services

Athana Mentzelopoulos has been named AHS President and CEO, effective this past Monday. [\(more...\)](#)

Enjoy the holiday season

A special holiday greeting from the AHS Executive Team and AHS Board



Enjoy this year's holiday card from the AHS Executive Team and AHS Board. [\(more...\)](#)

Get and report your flu shot

With influenza activity and outbreaks on the rise, it's important to get your flu shot and report it using the [Got My Flu Shot form](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Family presence an important part of the holiday season

You're encouraged to review AHS' Family Presence policy suite so you're familiar with the role of designated family/support persons. [\(more...\)](#)

Prepare for the new animal interactions policy

A new [provincial policy](#), effective Jan. 8, provides direction on animal interactions, personal pet visits and qualified assistance dogs. [\(more...\)](#)

Increase understanding of human factors to enhance patient safety

Register for a three-day course to explore the role of human factors in healthcare using hands-on activities and case studies. [\(more...\)](#)

Learn about the AHS Virtual Care Evaluation Framework

If you use virtual care in your healthcare delivery, consider joining this webinar where the new virtual care framework will be discussed. [\(more...\)](#)

[Register Now](#)



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.