

Primary Care Supports – GI Central Zone



Timely access to gastroenterology (GI) specialty care is a significant issue across Alberta. Wait times for patients with non-urgent indications are well above acceptable levels, negatively impacting patient quality of life and outcomes. Strengthening integration of care between the primary care Patient Medical Home and GI Specialty Services in Alberta is vital to addressing this issue.

PROVINCIAL PRIMARY CARE PATHWAYS



- Available pathways: [Chronic Abdominal Pain](#), [Chronic Constipation](#), [Chronic Diarrhea](#), [Dyspepsia](#), [GERD](#), [H. pylori](#), [Hepatitis C](#), [IBS](#), and [NAFLD](#)
- Pathways are available at ahs.ca/dhpathways
- For patients with these conditions, complete the pathway before considering a referral to a specialist
- When a referral to specialty care is required, use existing routine referral practices
- Patient resources and pathways are included to help patients understand their care plan and support self-management

WHY PATHWAYS?



- Guide the diagnosis and management of low-risk GI conditions within the Patient Medical Home
- Includes an evidence-based algorithm, links to local resources, references, and patient resources
- Developed to build capacity of primary care providers, improve appropriateness of referrals, and improve access for patients with higher-risk indications
- Reduce frustration with long wait times and time/cost/stress associated with access specialty care

ELECTRONIC ADVICE



- eReferral Advice Request allows physicians to obtain advice from specialists on diagnosis and care of non-urgent patients within the Patient Medical Home
- Submit a question electronically through [Netcare](#)
- Receive a response within five (5) calendar days
- This is a billable service for both the specialist and family physician
- [Referring Provider - FAQ](#)



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- ♦ Spreading awareness of primary care supports across the Zone
- ♦ Providing feedback on how primary care supports work for you
- ♦ Getting involved in new pathway development
- ♦ Collaborating with patients to develop education resources

For more information, contact

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