



This Issue: Apply for HQCA Patient Experience Awards; AHS Accredited until 2027; Medical Affairs Recruitment Events; 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

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.

AHS accredited until the end of 2027

After completing the 2019- 2023 accreditation cycle, Accreditation Canada has awarded AHS accredited status until the end of 2027. Each AHS site will receive a new certificate.

AHS participates in a sequential model of accreditation, which includes eight on-site surveys within the new [2023-2027 AHS Accreditation Cycle](#). Survey visits are unannounced, and AHS staff, physicians and leaders strive to always be accreditation-ready throughout the cycle.

Accreditation compares our health services with national standards of excellence to help us identify all we are doing well and how we can further improve.

Ethics Framework Refreshed

AHS has updated the [Ethics Framework](#) to provide further clarity, simplify language and align with related AHS policies. The principles remain the same.

The Framework provides information on resources available to the AHS workforce for support in addressing ethical questions and ensures Albertans continue to receive appropriate care of the highest ethical standard. It describes ethical scenarios you may find yourself in and connects you to the best resource available to help guide you in your decision-making.

Additional resources are available on [ahs.ca](https://www.ahs.ca) for clinical ethics, research, and ethics and compliance questions that come up in practice or in the workplace.

Questions? Email ethics@ahs.ca.

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:

- [**Vascular 2023**](#)
Montreal
October 23-29, 2023
 - [**Family Medicine Forum**](#)
Montreal
November 8-11, 2023
 - [**Alberta Family Medicine Summit**](#)
Banff
March 1-3, 2024
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New 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.

Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Conference 2023

On Nov. 16 and 17, the 2023 Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Conference will be held at the Rimrock Resort Hotel, in Banff.

Learn more about key topics and emerging issues within the practice of internal medicine, presented through workshops, short snappers and plenary talks that inspire excellence in clinical and academic medicine.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Poison & Drug Information Services (PADIS) Conference 2023

Join us on Nov. 4, for an intensive, one-day clinical toxicology course. This 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.

In person attendance or access to recordings only registration is offered for this course. 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](#).

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.

Reducing surgery wait times

[Surgical waitlist update](#)

Your Wellness

Learn tips and tricks for better sleep

Daylight saving time ends Nov. 5 and you may be impacted by the reduced daylight hours. [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about how healthcare workers can protect their mental health and how to de-stress at work. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

See the updated [enhanced masking directive](#) for the most current information and resources. [\(more...\)](#)

Respiratory virus update

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

AHS immunization clinics now open

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) clinics are now open across all zones. You can [walk in](#), [book online](#) or call 811. [\(more...\)](#)

AHS accredited until the end of 2027

After completing the 2019-23 accreditation cycle, Accreditation Canada has awarded AHS accredited status until the end of 2027. [\(more...\)](#)

AHS Vlog – Spotlight on Health Information Management



My guests discuss health information management, which helps facilitate healthcare delivery, patient safety and decision-making. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

National recognition for AHS innovation leader

An AHS senior leader is being recognized for her work in helping spread innovation in healthcare. [\(more...\)](#)

Ethics Framework refreshed

AHS has updated its [Ethics Framework](#) to provide further clarity, simplify language and align with related policies. [\(more...\)](#)

OneDrive migration coming soon

This fall, AHS will begin moving staff from using personal network drives to Microsoft OneDrive, a cloud-based storage application. ([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...](#))

Virtual showcase focuses on patient experience initiatives

Join Engagement and Patient Experience for its second virtual showcase to learn more about AHS patient experience initiatives. ([more...](#))

[Register Now](#)

Reminder to register for the i4 2023 conference

Registration for the [i4 2023 conference](#) closes Oct. 27. ([more...](#))

Become an IPC hand hygiene reviewer

Volunteer to become a hand hygiene reviewer. It's a small commitment that can make a big difference. ([more...](#))

Green n' Healthy Newsletter focuses on waste management

The latest [Green n' Healthy newsletter](#) is now available and puts a spotlight on our great work in the area of waste reduction. ([more...](#))

Wrapping up

As you may have read earlier in this message, Accreditation Canada has awarded AHS accredited status until the end of 2027. We should be extremely proud of this accomplishment. The results from each survey clearly shows the dedication and compassion of each and every one of you.

Accreditation is an important part of quality management, providing AHS with an opportunity to have peers from across Canada assess the organization to standards and required practices. The accreditation process helps us identify where we are excelling and where we can improve.

Thank you to those who participated in the accreditation surveys. I appreciate everyone working hard to be accreditation ready. Thank you all for continuing to provide exceptional healthcare to all Albertans.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

