

Medical Staff Update

This Issue: Message from the CEO; Gynecology joins FAST; Online billing sessions for new physicians; Medication policy update and new procedure; New Naloxone Administration for OIRD protocol; i4 2024 conference registration open; and more.

AHS recognizes that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8, and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta and eight Métis 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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AHS Update

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Medical Affairs News

Thank you for your hospitality and candour

This spring, I've been travelling the province to meet with many of you in person. Hearing about your successes, challenges, and ideas is important and enables me to better understand what we need to do as an organization to support you and your colleagues as you continue delivering the best possible care to your patients.

I recently visited Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge. There, I spoke with staff and physicians about the ongoing renovations to the emergency department and while there are serious challenges with space constraints, I was impressed to see what staff are doing to maximize space and efficiency including initiatives to create space for EMS off-load within the department. I could see the positive impact this has had and I thank everyone at this site for continuing to put patients first.

I also had an opportunity to participate in an open-house event at Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, where I talked with staff about a wide range of issues and ideas. Some folks shared concerns about current restrictions on discretionary spending and hiring. Everyone I met had insights and ideas that both motivate and challenge me, and I commit to looking closely at these policies as we work to complete a broader core review.

To those of you who have continued to be generous with your experience and advice – thank you. Even if you don't always see immediate results, please know your input is helping to inform the decisions we are making as an executive leadership team. We are working to improve how we communicate with the broader organization, especially as we navigate this period of profound change. While the challenges we face in this fast-paced, dynamic environment are not simply a matter of better communication, I know that your time is precious, and we must get to the point! I will endeavour to be as transparent as possible about the decisions we are making and to keep you informed as we work towards a refocused healthcare system.

Finally, with summer less than a week away, I encourage all of you in the coming months to find some time to get away, unplug, rest, recharge and enjoy the warm weather while it's here. It's important to use your vacation time and to take care of yourselves as you take care of patients, families, and each other.

Thank you for everything you do, each and every day.

Athana Mentzelopoulos
AHS President and CEO

Gynecology joins FAST June 2024

On June 10, the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) central access program began accepting referrals for gynecology in North, Central, Calgary and South Zones. Edmonton Zone FAST will continue to accept colposcopy referrals until more reasons for referral are added this fall.

The FAST program's expansion to gynecology – alongside general surgery, orthopedics, urology, and vascular surgery – improves patient access to specialty care through better coordination of referral intake and triage. FAST will expand to all surgical specialties by late 2025.

Find more information at ahs.ca/fast or by reviewing the [Provincial Adult Gynecology Referral Pathway](#) available on albertapathways.ca.

Online billing sessions for new physicians

AHS and the Alberta Medical Association have organized online billing sessions for new physicians to support their entry into practice in Alberta.

These sessions provide essential training on the province's billing system, to help new doctors navigate the complexities of billing codes and facilitate a smoother transition into their medical careers. These sessions are also great to attend if you are wanting a refresher.

- June 24 – Family Medicine – Community Practice: 6-8:30 p.m.
- June 26 – Family Medicine – Hospital: 7-8:30 p.m.
- June 28 – Anesthesia: 4-6 p.m.
- July 12 – Medicine Specialties: 4-6 p.m.
- July 17 – Family Medicine – Community Practice: 6-8:30 p.m.
- July 23 – Surgical Specialties: 6-8 p.m.
- Sept. 24 – Anesthesia; 6-8 p.m.

Registration is required to attend one of these sessions. Please contact amabillingeducation@albertadoctors.org to book the online billing session most applicable to you.

Review revised medication policy and new procedure

The revised [Medication Administration Policy](#) and new [Bridge Supply and Pass Medications Procedure](#) replace the Medication Supply: Bridging Discharged Patients to Community Policy and Procedure, Medication Administration Policy, and Labelling Medications Guideline.

Highlights:

- Clarifies expectations related to bridge supply and pass medications
- Consolidates previous documents

Learn more and find resources on the [Medication Administration](#) & [Bridge Supply and Pass Medications Insite pages](#).

Review new Naloxone Administration for OIRD protocol

To support patient safety, a new [Naloxone Administration For Opioid Induced Respiratory Depression \(OIRD\) from Prescribed Opioids](#) Protocol has been

developed. The protocol provides direction including inclusion/exclusion criteria, administration requirements, monitoring details and documentation.

When an authorized prescriber isn't immediately available, naloxone can now be administered without an order for ORID when the patient meets protocol criteria, but the most responsible health practitioner should be notified as soon as possible.

Provincial education is available to support implementation now; however, the protocol is effective on June 25 (when the external protocol link will be published).

Visit [Insite](#) for more information. Questions? Email policy@ahs.ca.

Register for the i4 2024 conference

At the intersection of people, community, relationships and technology, the future of healthcare is being created. Societal advancement and technological innovation are driving this transformation.

The i4 conference empowers you to design the future of healthcare. Join us in shaping that future. [Early-bird registration](#) is now open.

MD Culture Shift newsletter

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

Physician learning

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

- [Micro-Aggression Training for Physicians](#) – Online, ongoing
 - [International Conference on Physician Health](#) – Oct. 17-19, 2024
 - [Registration](#) now open!
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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.

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](#)



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.