

Medical Staff Update

This Issue: Messages from the CEO and CMO; Take the Alberta cancer care survey; Online billing sessions for new physicians; Cross Cancer Institute physician named to Order of Canada; New resource to support family presence; 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

- Read the latest [AHS Update](#)
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Medical Affairs News

Finding efficiencies, reinvesting in front-line care – message from the CEO

I'd like to share some updates as we work on Core Review, improve efficiency, optimization and productivity, and continue to support work to refocus the healthcare system to improve patient care and service delivery.

Work is well underway to prioritize projects. Despite the challenges we are navigating together, we remain undeterred from these goals. Over the summer, our leaders will share more details with you as we evolve and adapt in an environment of change.

As I've shared before, our 2024/25 funding includes an increase of 3.6 per cent from the previous year. This is significant and important funding, and Core Review will help us to find efficiencies to address the increased service volumes we are experiencing, as well as wage, benefit and inflation requirements.

Our organization-wide initiatives to date include discretionary spending restrictions, reductions in overtime, hours of work, and enhanced vacancy management. There will be more initiatives to come as we review every facet of the organization for opportunities to streamline and optimize performance.

Refocusing how we care for our patients and their families will support long-term improvements in healthcare. Our job as a healthcare delivery organization is and will continue to be continuous improvement of front-line acute care health services. Change of this magnitude always comes with challenges and difficult decisions will need to be made, but I know that we will continue to deliver the high-quality care that Albertans expect and deserve.

As we identify opportunities and help to define the future of healthcare across the province, I'm counting on, and appreciate, the great people around me. With your help, we're creating a financially sustainable plan that promises results across the province.

I hope what I've shared today will help energize you to get us through this together. Let's focus on what we can control, support our teammates and continue to do amazing things every day.

As we move forward with transparency, I welcome your ongoing feedback. Speak with your teams to identify more cost savings at the local level. We recently launched an online engagement platform (Together4Health) where you can share your thoughts through this [tool](#).

Thank you so much for all that you do every day.

Athana Mentzelopoulos
AHS President and CEO

Message from Dr. Peter Jamieson

The summer season has officially begun, and we've reached the first long weekend of the season. While the important work of providing healthcare to Albertans doesn't take a vacation over the next couple of months, I want to encourage each of you to do what you can to rest and regenerate over the summer months.

I know there are many changes ahead of us and we're all continuing to navigate through uncertainty. As always, through it all you continue to provide exceptional care to Albertans and show up for them and each other, day in and day out. I'm so proud to work alongside each of you.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful start of summer.

Peter

Take the Alberta cancer care survey

Once open this fall, the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre will be the largest cancer facility in Alberta, delivering leading, comprehensive patient- and family-centred care that integrates education, prevention, screening and research.

In advance of the fall opening, we want to hear from you. In 15 minutes or less, [take this survey](#), and let us know what you expert and may have experienced when it comes to cancer care. The survey is open to anyone until July 16, and all answers are anonymous. Feel free to share our survey link with others.

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 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.

Cross Cancer Institute physician named to Order of Canada

Congratulations to Dr. Vickie Baracos, who has been appointed to the Order of Canada. Dr. Baracos, who works out of the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, has transformed our understanding of cachexia, a debilitating syndrome that causes rapid weight and muscle loss in patients with advanced-stage cancer, leaving them with a skin-and-bones appearance. A professor at the University of Alberta, she developed groundbreaking insights into the fundamental biology of this complex condition. Her work has since led to clinical classification and diagnosis and has paved the way for treatment and improved patient outcomes.

Established in 1967, the Order of Canada celebrates outstanding achievements and extraordinary contributions. [See the list of all 83 appointments.](#)

New resource supports family presence

At AHS, a patient's designated family/support people are important partners in patient care, and they are welcome 24 hours a day. Not only are they an essential support for a patient and involved in many aspects of planning and decision-making around patient care, they're also an invaluable source of information about a patient's health history, preferences and care needs.

There are many ways you can involve and support these individuals. Engagement & Patient Experience developed a new resource, [Why Family Presence Matters](#), to support healthcare providers and staff in identifying ways to ensure a patient's family/support people feel welcomed, appreciated and remain a key partner in care.

Thank you for helping to ensure we're honouring family presence and living up to our [Shared Commitments](#) by working with and supporting these important people. Learn more about AHS' [Family Presence Policy Suite](#). If you have questions, email us at patient.engagement@ahs.ca.

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](#).

Leadership posting: [Medical Director, Health Link](#)

Health Link is seeking a Medical Director to support their operations and teams of nurses and other healthcare workers, as well as overseeing approximately 90

physicians who are part of the Health Link Virtual MD program. Working with the operational leadership team, they will also ensure clinical decision tools used for symptom-based triage are up to date, evidence-based and reflect best practice. Health Link provides 24/7 advice and health information for Albertans by providing a number of clinical services including virtual MD, nursing tele-triage, rehabilitation advice, addiction and mental health care, public health and primary care support.

For more information about this position, [please read the job posting](#) on Doctor Jobs Alberta.

AMA casual recruitment opportunity

- [Physician Leads – Accelerating Change Transformation Team](#): This is a dedicated pool of physician leaders who support the creation of a high-performing health system. All physicians are invited to apply.
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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](#)
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Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.