

# Medical Staff Update

*This Issue: New resource to better support Indigenous patients; Blood culture bottle shortage; APL physician survey; Online billing sessions for new physicians; MD Culture Shift; CPSA assessor opportunity; and more.*

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*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.*

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*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.*

## Topics:

### Medical Affairs News

- [New resource available to better support Indigenous patients](#)
- [Blood culture bottle shortage](#)
- [APL physician survey](#)
- [Online billing sessions for new physicians](#)
- [MD Culture Shift newsletter](#)
- [Physician learning](#)
  - Micro-Aggression Training for Physicians
- [Career opportunities](#)
  - Medical Director, Health Link
  - CPSA Assessors in Family Medicine
- [Support for physicians](#)
- [Additional resources for physicians](#)

### AHS Update

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

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**[New resource available to better support Indigenous patients](#)**

Some Indigenous Peoples have a deep-rooted spiritual connection to their hair. If there is a need to touch or cut a patient's hair for medical purposes and procedures, consent from the patient and their family must be given.

The Indigenous Wellness Core has created a comprehensive [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#) document for front-line clinicians regarding the cultural significance of hair for Indigenous patients.

This resource should be shared with all members of your clinical teams and followed to ensure we are providing culturally safe care for Indigenous patients and families. More information can be found [on Insite](#).

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### **Blood culture bottle shortage**

Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) has indicated that the BD BACTEC blood culture bottles will experience a supply shortage of up to 50 per cent over the next several months.

All microbiology laboratories in Alberta, except for the Calgary Hub Lab (DSC), use the BD BACTEC FX Blood culture system. BD BACTEC bottles are required for these instruments and there are no alternative products available.

Clinicians are being asked to adhere to best practice recommendations when ordering blood cultures. If provincial mitigation strategies are insufficient to counteract the reduction in supply, additional measures, such as restricting routine blood culture orders to a single set (one aerobic and one anaerobic bottle) instead of the current two sets, may need to be considered.

- [Read the full laboratory bulletin](#)
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### **APL physician survey**

Your feedback on APL lab request services is crucial for us to understand what's working and what can be improved. Share your thoughts through a [short online survey](#), open until Aug. 15, 2024. Your input will help ensure optimal laboratory service provision. Thank you for your participation.

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### **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 want a refresher.

- 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](mailto:amabillingeducation@albertadoctors.org) to book the online billing session most applicable to you.

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## MD Culture Shift newsletter

Check out the [July & August edition](#) of the MD Culture Shift newsletter.

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

## CPSA Assessors in Family Medicine

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) is currently recruiting urban, rural and regional physicians to join its pool of Practice Readiness Assessors for Preliminary Clinical Assessment (PCA) in Family Medicine. The Preliminary Clinical Assessment (PCA) is the first part of the two-part practice readiness assessment with CPSA that leads successful candidates to independent practice roles.

The CPSA would love to hear from you if you're a family physician on CPSA's General Register, who works in an urban, rural or regional location in any of these scopes: clinic/acute care in-patient/emergency department/long term care, and low-risk obstetrics. Please review the PCA Assessor Qualifications under [Registration assessors](#) and then complete the online [PRA PCA Assessor Application & Practice Profile form](#).

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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.

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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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Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities.  
**Together.**