



November 2023

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General news

Important information on a measles case in Alberta

AHS Calgary Zone is reporting a lab-confirmed case of measles in an infant. Please see the [attached information](#) shared by AHS medical officers of health on November 29, 2023.

Let's Talk Cholesterol – A new online clinical decision support for patients in Alberta

We're excited to share 'Let's Talk Cholesterol' – a new resource developed by patient partners and family physicians.

Dyslipidemia affects 1 in 3 Canadians, but from our focus groups, patients don't always understand dyslipidemia or how to choose the best treatment option for them. 'Let's Talk Cholesterol' is a comprehensive decision support tool, co-created with input from patient partners, family physicians, and specialists. It features patient-centred resources and a physician guide, written by family physicians, to facilitate evidence-based cholesterol management.

Starting in November 2023, a link to the 'Let's Talk Cholesterol' website is included on lipid lab results in Alberta. By visiting the site and reading through the material, patients can learn about dyslipidemia, statin indicated conditions, and treatment options.

We invite you to [check it out](#) and share with your patients and teams.

Help Alberta get immunized – Alberta's fall vaccine program has launched

Alberta's immunization program began Monday, October 16, offering influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, free of charge, to all Albertans six months of age and older. The vaccine is available through public health clinics, local pharmacies and doctors' offices.

Vaccines are our best line of defense against infectious diseases, and physicians and health care teams are in the ideal position to educate patients about the importance of getting vaccinated. You can address fear and trepidation around vaccine hesitancy, identify patients at risk of serious outcomes with influenza and/or COVID-19 infection, and reach out to patients when they are eligible to receive a vaccine.

Further information about the vaccines can be found through the following links:

Alberta Health

- [COVID-19 vaccine information](#): All Albertans six months+ can get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- [Influenza](#): Learn about influenza (the flu) and how to protect yourself by getting immunized.

Alberta Health Services

- [Get immunized against influenza](#): COVID-19 immunization is also available.
- [Influenza Immunization](#): Information for Health Professionals

Questions about the process/policy to administer immunizations in your clinic? Email health.imm@gov.ab.ca.

In case you missed it...

Check out the latest AMA media coverage and messages from AMA president, Dr. Paul Parks:

[What is primary care?](#) – *President's Letter*, November 23.

[Opinion: Family doctors must be the priority in Albertans' primary care](#) – Op-ed published in Edmonton Journal, November 23.

[Stabilization on the table, three things you need to do](#) – *President's Letter*, November 29.

[Media coverage](#) - AMA President Dr. Paul Parks and other physician leaders have been actively speaking to the media and providing interviews and insight as to the state of health care in our province and where solutions may lie.

Membership renewal still open

The 2023-24 membership year began October 1.

While we now have an agreement and our day-to-day working relationship with government has improved, there are still many urgent issues that need to be addressed. How we respond as a profession is important. To be effective, we must remain united. We must rely on one another – on our individual and collective expertise and dedication. There will be opportunities ahead, and we'll get further together.

Your association remains committed to serving you and we thank you in advance for renewing your membership. Your support is critical.

If you have any questions about AMA membership, please contact Jennifer McCombe, AMA Membership and Benefits Team Leader: 780-732-3359 | toll-free 1-800-272-9680 | email jennifer.mccombe@albertadoctors.org.

Remain united and [renew now!](#)

Thank a colleague! JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program

The JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program gives physicians the opportunity to thank their colleagues for their acts of kindness, big and small. The process is as quick and easy as sending an email.

Complete the [submission form](#) and we will make sure the message gets to the person you want to express your appreciation to.

Section of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

Save the date – Section of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Annual General Meeting (Virtual)

Date: Saturday, December 9

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, in addition to the agenda package, was sent to section members on November 22.

To reach the Section of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery President, Dr. Shao-hua Wang, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Emergency Medicine

Section update

We continue to face high volumes and we are challenged with both physician and nursing staffing issues especially at our rural sites. EIP's are climbing with the combination of ILI and covid patents. We are advocating for increased inpatient capacity as AHS has only added about 150 acute care beds since 2016.

We are challenged with after-hours coverage and have pushed this issue with the AMA. Most specialists are tired due to their own work demands and after-hours coverage adds another layer to their day. We are advocating for increase remuneration for after-hours work to help improve coverage at these times.

Good faith finally seems to be happening. It will be automated so as to be easier to use and reduce the likelihood of rejections. It will be retroactive to April 2022. Go live date is February 6, 2024.

To reach the Section of Emergency Medicine President, Dr. Arun Abbi, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism

Save the date – Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism Annual General Meeting (Virtual)

Date: Thursday, December 14

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, in addition to the agenda package, was sent to section members on November 29.

To reach the Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism President, Dr. Peter Grundy, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Generalists in Mental Health

Section update

Thank you to all those who filled out the survey about our members. From a negotiation's perspective, it would be helpful if a few more people fill it out as our section appears to be quite different than when it was originally formed.

Our fee codes should reflect the work we are doing now, and having this data should help with micro-allocation within the Section of Family Medicine. With the MAPS process ongoing and the general chaos in family medicine in Alberta, having our voice heard is of utmost importance.

The survey software shows it takes most people 4 minutes to complete (and will be shorter if you don't include any text). Over the next few months, I will be sharing with you the survey results. As a teaser, 75% of the membership works in the community. [Please complete the survey.](#)

For those of you who requested letters to give to colleagues about being a member of GNMH, these are forthcoming. The absolute latest deadline to change AMA membership voting group is December 31, however, sooner is appreciated by the AMA staff.

The education subcommittee is working on some education opportunities for the membership. Stay tuned for details.

We encourage you to get involved. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you are interested.

To reach the Section of Generalists in Mental Health President, Dr. Michelle Klassen, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Intensive Care

Save the date – ASICP 2024 – Lake Louise

Dates: January 19-20, 2024

Location: Post Hotel, Lake Louise

Further information including registration can be found on [website](#).

We are excited to be returning to the Post Hotel for an in-person Lake Louise meeting for the dates of January 19-20, 2024. The meeting will follow a similar format to years previous. There will be an early morning session and an evening session on Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20, leaving the day free for skiing or enjoying the amenities. The Saturday morning session will be a trainee and multidisciplinary research session co-presented with the Critical Care SCN. There will be a pub night on Thursday, January 18 for those who arrive on the Thursday night as well as a section dinner at the Post Restaurant on January 19.

To book your hotel room at the Post Hotel with the special discounted meeting rate at the Post Hotel – either call the hotel directly at 403-522-3989 or use the [special booking link](#).

We hope to see members attend from all 17 ICUs across Alberta. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or anyone from the section executive with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

To reach the Section of Intensive Care President, Dr. Ken Parhar, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Section Update

The section of Obstetrics and Gynecology would like to welcome Dr. Cameron Sklar as the new Section President. Dr. Sklar completed medical school and his OBGYN residency at the University of Alberta. He practices general OBGYN full time at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton and is an assistant clinical professor with the University of Alberta.

The section wishes to thank Dr. Rajakumar for his leadership provided in his presidential role and looks forward to having his continuing support and guidance in the years to come.

To reach the Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology President, Dr. Cameron Sklar, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Palliative Medicine

Save the date – Section of Palliative Medicine Annual General Meeting (Virtual)

Date: Thursday, December 7

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, in addition to the agenda package, was sent to section members on November 21.

To reach the Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism President, Dr. Marisa Dharmawardene, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Pediatrics

Section update

We will be holding the next AGM for the Section of Pediatrics virtually in January 2024. Please keep an eye out for an email in late December or early January with the date and time of the next AGM. We will be having a discussion on how to improve the efficiency of your billing by reminding people of certain codes and how to effectively use codes available to them. We hope to see you there.

Choosing Wisely has just recently released a new Bronchiolitis Toolkit for care of the pediatric patient with bronchiolitis.

Bronchiolitis is a viral infection that mostly affects infants and children under the age of two. In most cases, children will get better without the need for additional tests or treatments. Despite this, more than half of children with bronchiolitis receive unnecessary tests and treatments, like antibiotics or chest X-rays. When it comes to bronchiolitis, less is best.

Choosing Wisely Canada's new toolkit features easy-to-use tools and resources to help clinicians and caregivers manage bronchiolitis appropriately in emergency and primary care settings.

Toolkit available to [download](#).

To reach the Section of Pediatrics President, Dr. Sam Wong, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Rural Medicine

RESIDE update

RhPAP's Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience (RESIDE) program supports new-in-practice, Canadian-trained family physicians with a financial benefit of up to \$120,000 to practice in an [eligible rural Alberta community](#) for a term of two or three years. Residents in their final year (R2 or R3) of a Canadian family medicine residency program and physicians who graduated from a Canadian family medicine residency program in the last five years are eligible to apply.

The pilot phase of the RESIDE program will end on March 31, 2024. R2/R3 residents and new-in-practice family physicians who are interested in RESIDE must submit a [RESIDE application](#)

by March 31, 2024. For more information on RESIDE and the full eligibility criteria, please go to www.RhPAP.ca/reside or email reside@rhpap.ca.

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Rithesh Ram, please email ruralmedicine@albertadoctors.org.



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