



April 2024

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General news

Vaccine distribution to community medical clinics will pause on May 20, 2024 – Order today!

Due to contract expiration in May 2024, Alberta Health will be pausing provincially funded vaccine distribution to medical clinics effective May 20, 2024. Remaining vaccine inventory can continue to be provided to patients until inventory is depleted or expired. Please continue to follow the AVI expectations and responsibilities when managing your remaining provincially funded vaccine inventory.

To meet vaccine demands in the next 2-3 months, medical clinics are encouraged to place final orders with Accuristix to top up their inventory of Tdap vaccine. Please note that all final orders from medical clinics must be submitted to Accuristix by end of day May 3, 2024. To ensure supply is available for all medical clinics, a maximum order limit of 100 doses will be placed on final orders. Final orders will be distributed to medical clinics between May 6-14.

Distribution of provincially funded vaccine to community medical clinics is anticipated to resume in the fall. In the meantime, Albertans are to be referred to their preferred pharmacy or Alberta Health Services Public Health centre for immunization service. If you have questions or require further clarification, please contact Health.imm@gov.ab.ca.

Does your practice see a high proportion of injured workers?

Do you practice one of the following specialties that sees a higher proportion of injured workers?

- Occupational Medicine
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Emergency medicine
- Plastic Surgery
- General Surgery
- Family Medicine
- Rural Medicine

We need your input about your experiences working with WCB-Alberta! We will be meeting with WCB-AB this summer in anticipation of negotiations. The negotiating team needs to hear directly from members about the experiences you've had in working with WCB-Alberta, including:

- Thoughts regarding recent changes.
- Concerns, conflicts and challenges.
- Opportunities for improved processes.
- Any other thoughts you may have that should be brought forth to the negotiating table.

Please provide your comments directly to wcbnegotiations@albertadoctors.org. We thank you in advance for providing your valuable feedback.

SOMB amendments are live – Effective April 1, 2024

An [AHCIP Bulletin](#) was issued late last week to inform physicians about amendments to the Schedule of Medical Benefits (SOMB).

The AMA Agreement provided an overall 1% increase to the SOMB for the 2023-24 fiscal year, distributed to each AMA member section via macro allocation, as outlined in [Schedule 3](#) (page 30) of the Agreement. In accordance with these section increases; the AMA and its sections recommended a series of structural changes and individual adjustments to rates of benefits for insured services that are reflected in the new SOMB.

Please note that these changes are retroactive to April 1, 2024. Claims for services that have already been submitted and have had a rate adjustment will be reassessed and paid at the April 1, 2024 rate for dates of services April 1, 2024 onward. Physicians do not need to resubmit their valid claims to receive the adjusted rates. Claims for services that are new additions (e.g., 18,29EA) or changes to existing fee codes (e.g., 03.03AO) may be submitted to AH for dates of April 1, 2024 and onward.

The revised SOMB is posted online at www.alberta.ca/fees-health-professionals.aspx.

For more information, please see the April edition of AMA's [Billing Corner](#).

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.

AMA in the news

View [ongoing media coverage](#) of AMA President Dr. Paul Parks and other physician leaders who have been actively speaking to the media and providing interviews and insight about our health care system.

No time to keep up with health care news? Every day, the [News for Docs](#) team scours local, national and international news sources to find articles and leading opinions relevant to Alberta physicians. This curated media clipping service is available to all members at no charge. [Subscribe today!](#)

Save the date - AAGS Review in the Rockies 2024

Date: October 25-27, 2024

Location: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

Further details to follow.

To reach the Section of General Surgery President, Dr. Lloyd Mack, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Internal Medicine

Request for feedback

It is not hard to find examples of the acute care crisis in the everyday work section members are doing. Currently the action-reaction dynamic within each hospital and the advocacy, strategy and collateral damages are very localized. Localized solutions are critical but collective advocacy can be very powerful. It would be very helpful to hear from an Internal Medicine section representative from each hospital across the province to help shape our strategic action plan. Some of the key issues are:

- Strategies to financially incentivize the MPR designation and workload.
- Levelling of daily care fees across specialties.
- Appropriate compensation for after hours and weekend work.
- Investment in physician enabling resources including non-physician care team members.
- Changes in the education and service landscape of residency programs.
- Appraisal of the metastatic growth of the administrative load.
- Explore sustainable and remunerated models for hospitals to have after hours physician support.
- Incentivize the care of patients with complex chronic disease across acute care and community care.

Comments or questions are welcome, please forward them to me at section.services@albertadoctors.org. An acute care position paper will be circulated to section members. Thank you for the incredible work you are doing in these very challenging times.

To reach the Section of Internal Medicine President, Dr. Troy Pederson, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Laboratory Physicians

Save the date - Banff Pathology Course

The main topic this year is Neuroendocrine Pathology/Neoplasms.

Date: October 9-12, 2024

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

[Registration](#) now open.

To reach the Section of Laboratory Physicians President, Dr. Humaira Khanam, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Registration now open: Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium

Date: September 6-7, 2024

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

The Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology is pleased to invite you to the Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium (AGES). This 1.5-day symposium serves as a vital platform for medical professionals to exchange knowledge, discuss best practices and advancements in our field. The event creates opportunities for networking, socializing and exploring career prospects. [Registration is now open](#).

Registration costs are \$200.00 for trainees and \$350.00 for residents.

For detailed information, please visit our conference website: [AGES Conference Website](#).

We encourage you to share this invitation with any colleagues or trainees who might be interested in partaking.

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

Section of Pediatrics

Save the date – 47th American Academy of Pediatrics Conference

Date: June 20-23, 2024

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity
Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

This conference will explore recent advances in the delivery room management of neonates, along with talks on neonatal stroke and HIE, and offer up-to-date information on the long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes of premature infants. Additionally, the conference will cover nutrition in neonates and explore new developments in the field of nutrition in neonatology to improve the outcomes of our tiniest newborns. This conference will offer an opportunity to meet world-renowned speakers in their particular areas and provide a chance to network for future research.

For a list of registration fees, to view the detailed schedule and to register, please visit the [event website](#).

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

Section of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Save the date – Section of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Annual General Meeting (virtual)

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Notice of the Annual General Meeting was sent to section members on March 27.

To reach the Section of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Interim President, Dr. Franco Rizzuti, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Vascular Surgery

Save the date – Section of Vascular Surgery Annual General Meeting (virtual)

Date: Wednesday May 29, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Notice of the Annual General Meeting sent to section members April 22.

To reach the Section of Vascular Surgery President, Dr. Paul Petrasek, please email [AMA Section Services](#).



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