The Primary Care Alliance brings you information about current initiatives, activities and events related to primary care in Alberta.

View this email in your browser

In This Issue

Informatics update | Opioid workshop | PMH provincial report card | PaCT update | Other news
From the Primary Care Alliance

In March of last year I was writing to you about the number of initiatives and activities directed at physicians, and how it can sometimes be challenging to see how things are connected and where we are on the road toward the patient’s medical home (PMH). It is tough to know whether we are tackling the right things, at the right time. Often, we are so busy doing the work that it can be hard to see the bigger connections and mark the successes.

Two recent reports have shed light on the progress we’re making. The results, while tempered with a need for continued improvements, are hard-earned commendations.

Firstly, The College of Family Physicians of Canada released the Patient’s Medical Home Provincial Report card and Alberta is at the head of the pack for its performance against the pillars of the PMH. Specifically worth mentioning is the “green light” received for improvements in continuity of care – really the ultimate goal of PMH and the thread the ties all our current efforts together.

Secondly, the results from a December survey of more than 2,400 Albertans, drawn from the Alberta patients online community, shines an interesting light on their impressions and experiences with transitions of care. Good to note that the majority were reasonably satisfied with their movements from primary care to specialty care and back. We should be pleased with this progress! The survey also revealed that wait times and communication and process errors are still issues for patients and the Primary Care Alliance and Specialty Care Alliance are working together to improve the referral-consultation process. Improving transitions of care is another step toward improving continuity.

A truly connected, integrated Patient’s Medical Home needs technological infrastructure as a foundation. This is where the continuity enabler – Community Information Integration/Central Patient Attachment Registry – comes into play. We need to continue this positive progress and I encourage you to prepare for the general roll out coming later this year.

Are there a lot of initiatives underway? Yes. Do they fit together for a greater purpose? Undeniably. Should we be proud of our progress and inspired to continue construction of the Patient’s Medical Home? Absolutely!

Dr. Brad Bahler
Chair, Primary Care Alliance

FEATURED STORIES
Medical Informatics update

There are several IM/IT initiatives currently underway in Alberta. Community Information Integration (CII), Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR), Connect Care, and MyHealth Records are a few that will directly impact family physicians.
Alberta PCNs recognized for great progress with continuity of care

Did you see the *Patient's Medical Home Provincial Report Card* from the College of Family Physicians of Canada? Alberta PCNs have made great progress in improving the Patient's Medical Home, scoring well for many of the PMH pillars, including continuity of care!

Practical Workshop: Identifying and Treating Opioid Use Disorder in Primary Care

A free three-hour workshop for family physicians and teams providing practical tools that can be immediately applied in practice. Several dates are available across the province. Click the "Read More" link for more information and to register.
PaCT Update

The first phase of the Patients Collaborating with Teams (PaCT) initiative has officially wrapped up.
Continuity posters available
Continuity posters featuring continuity-of-care messaging are now available to download and print. Click for further information and links to the posters.

Alberta Netcare eReferral Advice Request – Support Patient Care in the Community
Alberta Netcare eReferral Advice Request is a confidential electronic messaging system for physicians to ask non-urgent clinical questions and get a response from specialists within five calendar days. Read more about the specialities offered and an opportunity to provide your feedback.

Specialist Physician of the Year
The Department of Family Medicine – Calgary will be honouring the 3rd Annual Specialist Physician of the Year at the upcoming Mackid Symposium in September 2019. The Specialist Physician of the year is someone who has shown exemplary collaboration with Primary Care and is nominated by family physicians like you! Visit calgaryfamilymedicine.ca to nominate a specialist colleague today!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK
Last month we asked: if blended capitation was a fully implemented option in Alberta, would your clinic choose it?
- 22% answered “yes”
- 66% answered “no”
- 11% answered “not sure”

In this issue we’re talking about marking PMH implementation progress and preparing for the next steps, so this month we’re asking you:

With the general rollout for CII/CPAR on its way later this year, how prepared are you/is your clinic for CII/CPAR?

© 2017 Alberta Medical Association