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

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From the Primary Care Alliance

The provincial election is over and we now have a new party governing the province. A new government means both new challenges and new opportunities for health care in general, and primary care in particular.

The incoming provincial government’s health platform continues to point to the importance of primary care, and for us as physicians that includes building on the success of the patient’s medical home and scaling up innovations in primary care.

Other important items noted in the UCP plan include filling the gaps in services for mental health patients and dealing with the opioid crisis. As we all know, these are already priority areas for Primary Care Networks and Zonal Committees.

As mentioned in the UCP platform, the challenge of specialty care access and surgical wait times are near and dear to the hearts of patients and primary care providers alike. In consultation with PCNs, access to specialty care was identified as a core objective for the Primary Health Care Integration Network and it will be a focus for the next several years, building successful partnerships between specialist physicians and PCNs.

The Primary Care Alliance is looking forward to working collaboratively with the new government on these priority areas. The hard work of PCNs and family physicians in the past five years has set us up well to deliver on these and other important health care objectives moving forward.

Dr. Brad Bahler
Chair, Primary Care Alliance
Proposed name change for SGP generates a lot of interest

Many physician members have responded with feedback to the proposed revision.

Celebrating the Patient’s Medical Home

The ACFP celebrated with its two Patient’s Medical Home – Outstanding Family Practice recipients and made a trip out to visit their staff teams. The ACFP’s Patient’s Medical Home – Outstanding Family Practice award honours clinics that exemplify the principles of the Patient’s Medical Home.
Primary Health Care and the Opioid Crisis – 2019 Updates

The ACFP, AMA, AHS, PEER, PCNs and Alberta Health have been collaborating and creating new tools: training sessions, learning modules, and mentorship opportunities, to help support your practice in response to the opioid crisis.

CII CPAR – The Early Adopter Experience

Observations and advice from some Limited Production Rollout participants.
Two new Clinical Practice Guidelines

Toward Optimized Practice and Alberta Health have partnered with experts from Alberta’s trans health care community to adapt existing Canadian practice tools to the Alberta environment. The new transgender practice tools were developed by primary care providers, psychiatrists, endocrinologists and a wide range of surgical specialists.

TOP has also partnered with the Alberta Health Services Newborn Metabolic Screening Program to develop the Practice Guide for Sickle Cell Trait Identified in Newborn Screening. Key features of the guide include background information about sickle cell disease and SCT, health expectations for people with SCT and implications for other family members and resources for healthcare providers, patients and families.

Learn more about these clinical practice guidelines and sign up for updates.

Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School

In an effort to build quality improvement knowledge and capacity in primary care the AMA has purchased a group license for Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School. The IHI Open School offers a range of online courses in improvement capability, patient safety, triple aim for populations, person- and family-centered care, leadership, and quality, cost, and value.

The AMA is pleased to provide a limited number of licenses for this continuing education opportunity to: PCN Physician Board members, Executive Directors/Medical Directors, Improvement Facilitators and PCN managers with IF direct reports.

Complete your subscription here. Questions? Email IFAdmin@albertadoctors.org.

Two-part Privacy Impact Assessment Update Webinar

Alberta Health’s eHealth Support Team is offering a two-part Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Update Webinar to help you determine when you need to prepare a revised PIA and how to get it done. The webinar targets custodians and those that work for them in privacy or information security. It’s also aimed at those who have previously completed the PIA process and who have had a PIA accepted by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Before the webinar, it is recommended each participant find their last clinic PIA and use the PIA Self-Assessment Questionnaire.

Part one of the webinar is May 1, noon to 1 p.m. and part two is May 15, noon to 1 p.m. Register here.

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. Currently, 24 specialties offer this service in Alberta. It is a complementary service to telephone advice such as Calgary Zone Specialist LINK and it allows physicians to send their questions along with attachments anytime beyond regular business hours. It is available to all physicians and clinical support staff who have access to the Alberta Netcare system. For more information, visit Alberta Netcare eReferral.

Your Input:

eReferral is asking physicians to take a short survey to help them understand primary care physicians’ awareness and satisfaction about eReferral Advice Request. Physician input is important, and will help inform eReferral of how to improve this secured messaging system. Click here to complete your survey before Wednesday, May 15, 2019. For a list of specialties available for eReferral Advice and Consult Requests, visit eReferral online.

Five-year review of Choosing Wisely

The Choosing Wisely Canada campaign officially launched five years ago this month. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the harms of unnecessary tests and treatments in health care by encouraging conversations between clinicians and patients. You can read a report on the first five years of the program.
We've had a provincial election and elected a new government. The UCP health care platform continues to note the importance of primary care. With that in mind, we're interested in knowing…

What are your practice priorities this year when considering your progress toward developing the patient’s medical home?

Have Your Say!