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

We know the concept of the Patient’s Medical Home is one that is well supported by research and evidence. While there are fundamental elements that must be included, we also know that implementing PMH will - and does - look different from practice to practice across the province. Ongoing primary care research is critical to inform us of the effectiveness of change and the supports required to make the PMH transformation. Physician and team support and involvement in that activity is essential if we want to accelerate our progress.

Enhancing Alberta Primary Care Research Networks (EnAct) is an infrastructure to support existing practice-based research networks, as well as academic and community practitioners conducting primary care research. This network collaborates and connects with organizations and research networks across the province. It can offer resources to help innovators with studies or to develop scalable projects.

You may recall one of the most recent studies to come out EnAct is the Scaling Up report. It was presented at the PCN Strategic Leadership Forum last fall. It offers an approach for tackling primary care transformation in Alberta that includes rethinking how we undertake change at the practice level.

Other studies that are in development include reducing antibiotic prescribing in primary care, the Cirrhosis Care Alberta program, Chronic Kidney Disease project, scaling GI specialist access and pathways, and more on the horizon. Of course, these studies will require participants.

Please consider how utilizing the results of this work or participating in the research can help advance your practice and the practices of others. We can all play a role in moving toward full adoption of the Patient’s Medical Home.

Dr. Brad Bahler
Chair, Primary Care Alliance

FEATURED STORIES
ACFP Reminder to Members - CFPC's Credit Reporting Requirement Deadline June 30 Approaching

June 30 marks the end date for all annual credit-reporting cycles and for five-year completion cycles for the College of Family Physicians of Canada Maintenance of Proficiency program, Mainpro+. Log in to your Mainpro+ account to check where you are in your five-year cycle and to ensure your credit reporting is up to date.

The PEER Simplified Guideline: Managing Opioid Use Disorder in Primary Care

The Patients Experience Evidence Research (PEER) Team recently published their Simplified Guideline: Managing Opioid Use Disorder in Primary Care in the May issue of the Canadian Family Physician.
Three AMA change management programs now merged into one

The 2018-20 AMA Agreement brought stability to all AMA programs, including our three former independent change management programs: Practice Management Program, Toward Optimized Practice and the PCN Program Management Office.

On November 1, 2018 these three programs officially merged into one and we are pleased to announce its name: Accelerating Change Transformation Team or ACTT.

CII CPAR moves to a new phase

More progress for the Community Information Integration/Central Patient Attachment Registry initiative.
New specialties added to Alberta Netcare eReferral Advice and Consult Requests on May 21, 2019

Physicians and clinical support staff can now submit Consult Requests (i.e., requests for in-person specialist appointments) in the Calgary Zone to:

- Internal Med - Pulmonary Medicine (IPM)
- Internal Med - Sleep Medicine (FMC Sleep Centre)
- Internal Med - Tuberculosis Services (please search by reasons for referral or by facility [TB])

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry was also released on eReferral Advice Request (i.e., non-urgent questions answered by a specialist within five calendar days) and is available in the Calgary, Central (patients in Red Deer and south) and South AHS Zones.

For more about eReferral, including a full list of specialties available for eReferral Advice and Consult Requests, visit eReferral online.

Connecting and Following Patients through Medical Neighborhoods from Medical Homes: An Evaluative Study

Participate in a study whose purpose is to better understand family physician experiences with accessing and coordinating care using current resources, information systems, communication processes, across four areas of care:

- Staying healthy
- Getting better
- Living with illness or disability
- Coping with end of life.

Everyone who participates in the study, a 10 – 15 minute anonymous survey and/or 30 – 45 minute interview, has the opportunity to enter a draw for a chance to receive $50 gift card.

This is a conjoint research study under the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine and the University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine and has been approved by both university ethics boards (UBC Ethics ID: H18-03572|U of C Ethics ID: REB19-0108).

Read the full study invitation. Take the survey.

Limited licenses still available for Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School

The Alberta Medical Association has purchased a group license for Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School. A range of online courses are offered in improvement capability, patient safety, triple aim for populations, person-and family-centered care, leadership, and quality, cost, and value. In an effort to build quality improvement knowledge and capacity in primary care, 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.
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

This month we’ve focused on the importance of research in primary care, including ways you can participate in this crucial activity and benefit from the results. Knowing that there are opportunities for involvement at all levels by all physicians, we’re interested in learning…

What areas of primary care research do you think are most important and why?
Would you consider participating in, or contributing to primary care research activities? Why or why not?

Have Your Say!

Thank you for answering our April question about your practice priorities this year for continuing progress toward development of the patient’s medical home:

"Implemented electronic appointment reminder system, hopefully implementing patient portal, and maybe CPAR/CII too!"

"Keep working on QI with panel manager"