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

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September 2019

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Fall is a time of renewed energy and focus. There has been continued progress on the Patient’s Medical Home over the summer, and this season brings a flurry of exciting developments. The Community Information Integration / Central Patient Attachment Registry initiative reached a new milestone with eNotifications for Healthquest (EMR) going live in the first clinics in Leduc Beaumont Devon and Chinook PCNs. This feature is a key enabler for informational continuity and although it provides notice of a hospital admission or discharge, so far the vast majority of the notices are for emergency department visits.

Taking a “temperature check” is important to capture the early lessons-learned and improve the process. This summer, the HQCA released the CII/CPAR Formative Evaluation Report - Early Findings. You can read more in the article in this issue. The report from the first clinics involved show that the vast majority are:

- Comfortable sharing information with other providers and with Alberta Health for the purpose of planning and quality improvement
- Glad they made the decision to participate and CII/CPAR, and
- Encouraging their colleagues to participate

The project team has already used the evaluation findings and feedback from participants to improve processes and make it easier for the next clinics to participate. I encourage you to read the report and consider your next steps on the journey to better integrated, better-informed health care.

In closing, I would like to recognize that the AMA’s Section of General Practice officially changed its name to the Section of Family Medicine at their AGM on September 26. I believe that the term “family medicine” better reflects the specialized care we offer and communicates the important role we play in our patient’s lives and in the health care system as a whole. Congratulations to the new Section of Family Medicine for making this important change.

Dr. Brad Bahler
Chair, Primary Care Alliance
New name, new President…Section of General Practice becomes the Section of Family Medicine

During its AGM, the Section of General Practice became the Section of Family Medicine and a new President was installed. Click to read initial thoughts from new SFM President, Dr. Kathryn Andrusky.

Changes are coming to Alberta Netcare

The changes rolling out October 10, are a result of the new Clinical Information System that AHS will be using, called Connect Care. Visit the Netcare website for additional information and updates.
Early HQCA evaluation of CII/CPAR shows promise

The Health Quality Council of Alberta recently conducted an interim assessment of the CII/CPAR initiative. With implementation of 33 clinics so far, the initiative is in early stages so it an ideal time to receive this valuable feedback.

Register for the PEIP Conference before late pricing kicks in!

*Earn up to 9.25 certified Mainpro+ credits* for two days of learning, free from industry bias!
With two ways to participate (in person or via live Webcast), the Practical Evidence for Informed Practice conference is a fully accessible, multidisciplinary event that showcases relevant, evidence-based, and thought-provoking topics in health care.
Section of General Practice celebrates Dr. Phillip van der Merwe

Dr. van der Merwe receives the Outstanding Service Award for his tireless work and personal dedication to the advancement of primary care in Alberta. Read more in Alberta Doctors’ Digest.

New HQCA FOCUS data available

The Health Quality Council of Alberta has released Q1 Fostering Open Conversations that Unleash Solutions data for emergency departments. They also recently added data on clinical care and delivery of care, along with patient experience survey information to the FOCUS on Primary Healthcare website.

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, 23 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. Complete your survey before Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

You’ve read about the progress on the Community Information Integration/Central Patient Attachment Registry initiative in this month’s newsletter, including a new HQCA report on early findings, with that in mind…

Are you considering participating in CII/CPAR? If "yes", when do you plan to get involved? If "no", what barriers are you facing?

Have Your Say!