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

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October 2019

Connect Care | CII CPAR | Collaborative Mentorship Network | Opioid Update | Other News
From the Primary Care Alliance

The Canadian Institute for Health Information published a report in September that showed the number of family doctors in Canada grew by 12 per cent between 2014 and 2018, while the Canadian population increased by 4.6 per cent. For reference, Alberta had 248.7 physicians per 100,000 population in 2018, behind Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and B.C.

Despite the growth in physician numbers, the most recent Statistics Canada data indicates that around 18 percent of Albertans are without a regular family doctor.

The official public launch this month of the albertafindadoctor.ca website is a great example of partnership collaboration and of the progress we’re making toward improving on a key pillar of the Patient’s Medical Home. We know continuity of care is a foundational element of the PMH, and research shows that patients benefit from a long-term relationship with their family doctor and team, ultimately living healthier and longer lives.

We also know that there isn’t any one solution to solve availability and that there are more factors involved. However, a simple and reliable way for patients to find a doctor is good step in the right direction.

Managing those patients and ensuring they see you as their regular family physician is the next logical step. A Relational Continuity Clinical Practice Guideline and change package were released earlier this year and I would encourage you to consider the tools and resources available to support your continued progress toward implementation of the PMH model.

Dr. Brad Bahler
Chair, Primary Care Alliance
C-Day...R U Ready?

The Nov. 3 launch of Connect Care will directly impact community/family physicians. What you need to know right now about Connect Care in order to avoid disruptions to your practice...

ACFP Collaborative Mentorship Network for Chronic Pain and Addiction – Join Now!

"I have recognized addiction and chronic pain as being a significant part of my practice since starting medicine... I see the mentorship model as something of great value; a network of family physicians and specialists sharing knowledge with the goal of timely advice and better patient care."
- CMN Medical Director, Dr. Cathy Scrimshaw

Click to read Cathy’s story.
CII/CPAR contributing community clinic information to Netcare
More clinics are going live with the Community Information Integration/Central Patient Attachment Registry initiative. Kneehill Medical Clinic in the Big Country Primary Care Network in Three Hills is one those facilities. Read on to learn about their experience.

Change agents tackling opioid practice change training
Over 170 change agents from across the province have had opioid practice change training! If you and your team would like training, please visit the ACTT website to see if there is a training session scheduled near you or request one in your area by emailing populationhealth@albertadoctors.org. Check out the opioid change package and the updated tools!
Help Improve Home to Hospital to Home Transitions in Alberta!

Alberta will soon have guidelines on how patients can best transition from their communities, to hospitals and back home again. Thousands of healthcare workers in both acute care and primary care will be impacted by these guidelines, and the Primary Health Care Integration Network wants to connect with them — digitally! Have your say on how Home to Hospital to Home Transitions Guidelines can be implemented in a way that works for your region and practice. Learn more.

Influenza Immunization in Adult and Pediatric Cancer Patients: Resources Now Available

Being vaccinated for influenza annually is strongly recommended for healthcare providers and family members as the best way to protect vulnerable patients with cancer. The inactivated flu vaccine may be appropriate for most adults and pediatric patients with cancer, to help give more protection.

For more information: Clinical Practice Guideline and Clinician Fact Sheet.

An important note about the Connect Care launch

As you may have read in the Section of Family Medicine Bulletin linked above the Connect Care launch will have an impact across multiple areas. One update to note is that AHS has released communication for community providers who work in more than one community site. Read the newsletter and for regular updates, please visit the Connect Care - Community Provider Resources website.

Tell Us What You Think

With a media focus on the availability of family physicians in Alberta and the official launch of the albertafindadoctor.ca website this month, we’d like to know…

- Within the past two years, have you announced that your practice is accepting new patients?

Have Your Say!