

Family Medicine Review

April 25, 2022

Welcome to the most recent issue of the *Family Medicine Review*. Brought to you by the Sections of Family Medicine and Rural Medicine, the *Review* offers an at-a-glance summary of information, resources and events for Alberta's family physicians. New issues will be shared twice a month.

Priority Notes

- ❖ *Recording of webinar on negotiations (see Negotiations)*
- ❖ *Paxlovid™ prescribing by primary care (see COVID-19)*
- ❖ *Webinar on prescribing Paxlovid™ (see Upcoming Events and Deadlines)*

Negotiations

- The [April 12 President's Letter](#) offered an overview of some of the information discussed at the April 5 negotiations webinar, which was hosted by the Section of Family Medicine, Section of Rural Medicine and Specialty Care Alliance. The presentation portion of the webinar was [recorded](#) (member login required) for those who couldn't attend. Members can also view a [video](#) of the presentation portion of the webinar and review a list of [questions-and-answers](#) (member login required) from the discussion that took place.

Informatics

- An important enhancement to Netcare will occur in April, with the primary provider from the Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR) displaying in a patient's content banner in Alberta Netcare Portal. To learn more, see [FAQ for CPAR Participants](#) or [FAQ for Netcare Users](#). Here are the [most recent CII/CPAR stats](#).

COVID-19

Prescribing Paxlovid™ to eligible Alberta COVID-19 patients at high risk of severe outcomes has begun transitioning to primary care providers.

- Since not all pharmacies in Alberta are handling Paxlovid™, prescribers are responsible for confirming that the pharmacy they are sending a prescription to is dispensing Paxlovid™ and have it in stock. If a pharmacy receives a prescription for Paxlovid™ and is unable to fill it, the pharmacy is responsible for identifying another pharmacy that can fill the prescription. This map can be used to verify which [pharmacies in your community](#) are dispensing Paxlovid™.

As a reminder, the time physicians spend on confirming which pharmacies are dispensing Paxlovid™ is part of indirect care and should be billed as such.

- **Paxlovid™ resources for primary care providers**
A reminder that information on Paxlovid™, including eligibility criteria and FAQs, can be found at [COVID-19 Outpatient Treatment | Alberta Health Services](#). Please direct physician questions to phc@ahs.ca.
- **Paxlovid™ resources regarding LTC/DSL residents**
AHS has posted Paxlovid™ resources for primary care providers who care for residents in Long Term Care or Designated Supportive Living (4 or 4D). Resources include a consent form, FAQs and a prescription flow diagram. More information: [Paxlovid™ for LTC DSL | Alberta Health Services](#). Questions: phc@ahs.ca.

Advocacy

- [The Canadian Medical Association profiled Dr. Alexander Wong](#), a Regina-based clinician-researcher in infectious diseases and addictions medicine, on his advocacy work and his presence on social media.
- SFM and SRM leadership continue to meet with partners and policy makers to advocate on the key concerns that matter to family physicians. This includes issues such as practice survivability, compensation, physician supply and informatics.

Physician Supply

- Several communities across the province continued to experience acute care and ED bed closures including, most recently, the communities of [Spirit River](#), [Boyle](#) and [Two Hills](#).
- CBC Calgary reported that [Alberta emergency departments and urgent care centres have faced physician supply challenges more than 50 times this year](#).

Governance

- The second part of the Spring 2022 Representative Forum meeting will be held May 13-14 in Calgary at the Calgary Airport Marriott.
- In conjunction with the Spring 2022 RF, the SFM Executive meeting is being held during the day on May 12. The FMM is being held the evening of May 12, for all family medicine RF Delegates. Both of these meetings are being held at the Calgary Airport Marriott.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- **Webinar #9: COVID Talk for Docs – What you need to know about Paxlovid™**
April 27, 12 - 1 p.m. The Alberta Medical Association is [hosting a webinar](#) to support physicians and their teams, as prescribing Paxlovid™ and other outpatient treatments for COVID-19 begins transitioning to primary care providers. Please register using this [registration link](#). If you are unable to join live, you can view the webinar on the AMA's [past COVID-19 webinars](#) webpage within a few days after the event.
- **AMA Achievement Awards nominations due April 30**
The AMA is seeking nominations for its highest awards: the [Medal of Distinguished Service](#) (awarded to a physician[s]) and the [Medal of Honour](#) (awarded to a non-physician[s]). The awards will be presented at the AMA's fall 2022 Annual General Meeting. [Learn more and nominate](#).
- **2022 Tarrant Scholarship applications due June 1, 2022**
The Section of Rural Medicine is now accepting [applications](#) for the 2022 Tarrant Scholarship. The Tarrant Scholarship honours the late Dr. Michael Tarrant and is awarded to third-year medical students who demonstrate a strong interest in developing a career in rural medicine.
- Dr. Jasneet Parmar from the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta and her team are inviting family physicians to participate in a survey to understand your educational needs on how to better partner in the care and support of family caregivers. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and can be found using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5TGQVLX>.

Best regards,

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President
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Dr. Samantha Myhr
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