

Family Medicine Review

May 19, 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 monthly.

Today is [World Family Doctor Day](#), a day to highlight the critical role and incredible contribution family doctors play in health care systems around the world. Here in Alberta, we know that family medicine is the foundation of our health care system and that family physicians are working harder than ever to deliver the personal, comprehensive, consistent care Albertans need. We also know family physicians are increasingly exhausted as they deal with the realities of a system in crisis and myriad practice sustainability challenges. Although it can sometimes be difficult to find reasons to celebrate, SFM and SRM want you to know we understand and appreciate your work, your dedication, and your frustration. The [ACFP and the AMA have put out a joint statement](#) marking World Family Doctor Day, which we encourage you to read. We thank you for all you have done and all that you do for your patients and remind you of the importance of setting limits for yourself when the demand is too much. You matter, today and every day.

Priority Notes

- ❖ *Negotiations update at RF (see Negotiations)*
- ❖ *PFSP Relaunching the P4P Program (see Physician Wellness)*
- ❖ *Expanded eligibility for Paxlovid™ prescribing (see COVID-19)*
- ❖ *HQCA Physician Survey (see Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Deadlines)*

Negotiations

- Negotiations between the government and the AMA continue, with AMA President Dr. Vesta Michelle Warren and Health Minister Jason Copping spending two days last week engaged in continuing discussions. Minister Copping spoke of the ongoing work during Part Two of the Spring RF, held May 13-14 in Calgary. More discussions are scheduled soon.

Compensation

- During Part Two of the Spring RF, there were several presentations relating to compensation and the AMA's Income Equity Initiative. Representatives from AMACC and AMA Health Economics explained the interim measure that was discussed at Spring RF Part One and asked delegates to vote on whether or not the Board had followed the direction given at the Fall 2021 RF. Watch for more information coming soon.

Informatics

- An important enhancement to Netcare took place in April with the primary provider from the Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR) now displaying in a patient's content banner in the 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

- Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services recently shared a joint letter from Mark Joffe and Deena Hinshaw to address some emerging concerns and questions regarding [Paxlovid™ treatment: Updates on rebound symptoms and long COVID](#).

- [Paxlovid™ eligibility criteria expanded](#)
Criteria has been expanded to include two additional groups: those who have received *two doses* of vaccine and are age 60+ (50+ if Indigenous) with *one* pre-existing condition; and those who have received *three or more doses* of vaccine and are age 70+ (60+ if Indigenous) with *two or more* pre-existing conditions.
- **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 your questions to phc@ahs.ca.

Advocacy

- The Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses Association and the College of Family Physicians of Canada, have worked together to develop [a strategy to address the health human resources crisis](#).
- 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 [Cold Lake](#), [Consort](#) and [Swan Hills](#).
- The [May 17 President's Letter](#) discussed the growing crisis our health care system is experiencing and how inadequate physician supply is the common denominator, leading to physician burnout and impacting patient access to timely care.

Physician Wellness

- PFSP is relaunching its [Physicians for Physicians \(P4P\) program](#) with a focus on recruitment of family physicians to sign up to the program. [A letter](#) was recently sent to family physicians outlining the program and the ask.

Governance

- Following the recent resignations of Dr. Justin Balko, Dr. Jeff Bratvold and Dr. Jon Hilner – three highly-valued members of the SFM Executive – the remaining executive members sought to fill the roles in accordance with the bylaws. Two exceptional physician leaders have now accepted the invitation to sit as Members-at-Large until elections take place at the SFM AGM in September. The SFM Executive thanks Dr. Katherine Kasha and Dr. Van Thuy Nguyen for stepping into these roles.

Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Deadlines

- The Health Quality Council of Alberta is evaluating its [Primary Care Patient Experience Survey](#). An independent team of evaluators has been contracted to conduct this evaluation and is seeking feedback from family/primary care physicians about any barriers to using this survey and opportunities for improvement. *To provide your feedback, please complete this two-minute [HQCA Physician Survey](#). The survey will be open from May 6 to May 25.*
- **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 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>.

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