Need to send personal health information? Email may be convenient but it's risky.

A recent breach has brought the risks of emailing (e.g., Gmail, Hotmail, Shaw, etc.) personal health information to the forefront. What appears to be a secure and convenient tool has many potential risks that can result in the exposure of personal health information and along with that, liability issues for physicians.

What are the risks?

We recently profiled two AMA members in Alberta Doctors’ Digest for our Shine A Light initiative:

Dr. Daisy Fung, Edmonton family physician and Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Family Medicine, at the University of Alberta.
Have you renewed your AMA membership?

Visit the AMA website to renew your membership. While you're there, you can also sign up for pre-authorized payments (PAP) or update your PAP profile and banking information.

If preferred, you may print a PDF of the form then complete and mail or fax it to the address or fax number noted below. Please contact Kirsten Sieben, Membership and Benefits, for a copy of the form.

Mail:
Alberta Medical Association
12230 106 Ave NW
Edmonton AB T5N 3Z1

Fax: 780.482.5445

Membership questions?
Contact: Kirsten Sieben, T: 780.482.0323
Toll-free: 1.866.714.5724, ext. 5323

Presidential ghosts in your inbox?

It's the beginning of October, which means the Fall Representative Forum has come and gone and the AMA has installed its new president, Dr. Christine Molnar. When Dr. Molnar sends out her first President's Letter in the coming weeks, you may see the names of past AMA presidents (e.g., Dr. Alison Clarke) in the “From” field.

Unfortunately, this is not something we can fix from our end. The problem may be haunting your personal address book, which may still be connecting the email address president@albertadoctors.org with a past president’s name.

Here’s how to correct this
Search your personal address book for the older contact linked to president@albertadoctors.org. Delete that contact. Create a new contact called “AMA President” with the email address of president@albertadoctors.org.
Preparing for retirement?

Retiring from medicine? Visit the AMA website for tips and resources we’ve assembled to help you with your transition.

Register for the AMA general billing seminars

General billing seminars provide an overview of billing to Alberta Health, as well as an opportunity to learn about recent changes to the Schedule of Medical Benefits. They are being held in the following locations:

- Peace River, October 28
- Grande Prairie, October 29

For more information or to register for the Peace River and Grande Prairie seminars, please email jocelynn.malinowski@albertadoctors.org

For help from AMA staff on specific billing issues, please email billingadvice@albertadoctors.org or visit Billing Help.
Should you agree to be someone’s executor?

Being named the executor of someone’s estate is an honor but comes with a great deal of responsibilities. Here’s what you need to know before you make the decision.

MD Financial Management provides financial products and services, the MD Family of Funds and investment counselling services through the MD Group of Companies. For a detailed list of these companies, visit md.ca. MD Financial Management is a proud sponsor of the AMA Youth Run Club.

Flu immunization starting earlier this year

Alberta Health anticipates that influenza vaccine will begin to be distributed across the province starting the week of October 7. At that time, physician clinics and other health care providers (e.g., community pharmacies and public health nurses) may offer the influenza vaccine to patients as soon as they receive it.

Large influenza immunization clinics will have enough supply to begin the week of October 21.
Students and residents: Have you applied for the ELiHP grant yet?

Apply by Friday, November 1 for funding for your great health promotion initiative. Grant amounts are flexible (minimum of $500 per grant), and up to $20,000 is available for distribution among deserving projects for 2019-20.

This grant program is intended to:

- Promote development of the physician’s role as advocates for healthy populations.
- Provide experience in health promotion as integral to medical practice.
- Facilitate growth of leadership and advocacy skills in a mentored environment.

The Emerging Leaders in Health Promotion grant program is sponsored by the Alberta Medical Association, MD Financial Management, the Canadian Medical Association, and Joule.

Questions? Contact us at:

- emergingleadersgrant@albertadoctors.org
- T 780.482.0305 or 1.866.714.5724, ext. 5305

View eligibility requirements and grant program information
Get extended health and dental coverage from the AMA

Now is your opportunity to enroll in our popular AMA Health Benefits Trust Fund. Our annual open enrollment period runs until **October 31**.

Learn more

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**HPV Test of Cure: Optimizing colposcopy discharge for patients post-treatment**

Alberta colposcopists now have a risk stratification tool, HPV Test of Cure, to distinguish women requiring further colposcopy care from those who’d benefit from earlier discharge post-treatment. Beginning in October, Alberta Health Services, together with Alberta Public Laboratories, DynaLife and colposcopy clinics, will implement this strategy.

**What is HPV Test of Cure?**

HPV Test of Cure is post-treatment HPV testing used to optimize patient discharge; it’s an expansion on the current HPV pathway (HPV testing to identify false positives). Around 3,000 patients will be treated this way annually, with most returning to primary care. Anticipated results include improved patient experience, improved capacity and cost savings – it’s a win-win for patients, providers and the health care system.