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General News

Patients waiting? Send them to PatientsFirst.ca

The AMA wants to help Albertans understand what is happening in our health care system. The PatientsFirst.ca website was established so patients can easily share their own experience of waiting for care in Alberta. We are asking patients to visit PatientsFirst.ca to complete a short, anonymous survey. It takes only a few minutes, but it can really make a difference. We will compile the data and use it to advocate for patients when in discussions with government and other system partners.

What to do

Please refer patients to PatientsFirst.ca to complete the survey if:

- Your practice is not accepting any new patients or referrals, but patients keep calling.
- You are booking appointments, but patients must wait to be seen.
- You are referring patients for consultations, diagnostic tests, surgery, or to treatment programs, etc., for which they will have to wait.

Materials coming soon!

In the next few weeks, all AMA members will receive post-it sized tear away pads in the mail with information about PatientsFirst.ca that can be given out to patients. The Joint Physician Advocacy Committee recommended that we involve front-line physicians in encouraging patients to participate in the survey and we hope that you and your staff can lend a hand.

You can refer patients to the survey by phone or in person:

In person

- When you receive your 100 pocket-sized tear-away sheets, please hand one to any patient who is waiting/will be waiting for care.
- A [poster](#) is available on the homepage of the AMA website to print and display in your office.

By phone

- Please use these [talking points](#) to refer callers to the website: PatientsFirst.ca.

For more information or to request tear-off sheets, please reach out to amamail@albertadoctors.org.

Thank you

The data that we are anonymously collecting through PatientsFirst.ca will help make the system better. We can measure, track, and better understand the care deficit we are currently experiencing. We will be reporting regularly to the public, government, and the profession on what we learn.

If you have any questions about this campaign or would like further information, please email jpac@albertadoctors.org. Thanks in advance for your support.

Family Medicine

SFM Outstanding Service and Long Service Award Recipients for 2022

This year's Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes members who have made tremendous contributions in promoting and enhancing primary care in the province, is being presented to Dr. Douglas Faulder. Dr. Faulder, who retired earlier this year, has had a long and distinguished career in family medicine and has been a champion of long-term care in the Edmonton Zone. A consummate teacher and dedicated mentor to generations of long-term care attending physicians, Dr. Faulder was also an impassioned advocate for family medicine. On behalf of the SFM Executive and his many patients, we offer our deepest thanks.

This year's two Long Service Award recipients are well known to colleagues across the province for their unwavering commitment to family medicine. Both Dr. Jane Ballantine and Dr. Maeve O'Beirne are long-standing SFM RF Delegates who have dedicated countless hours to offering leadership within the Section. We are grateful for everything they have done to shape and guide SFM.

Awards will be presented at the SFM Annual General Meeting.

SFM Annual General Meeting – Save the Date!

Date: September 22, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm* (dinner and registration at 5:30 pm)

Location: Hyatt Regency Calgary
700 Centre Street S
Calgary, AB T2G 5P6

Expert Advisory Panel – Colorectal Cancer Canada

Colorectal Cancer Canada is looking for interested family physicians to join the My Symptoms Matter's Expert Advisory Panel (EAP). As a member of the EAP, you will be contacted to provide feedback on certain deliverables including educational materials, pamphlets, toolkits, and infographics, as well as participation in future webinars.

Please contact patilm@colorectalcancercanada.com for further details. Or click [here](#) to learn more.

To reach the Section of Family Medicine President, Dr. Craig Hodgson, please email sfmpres@albertadoctors.org.

Generalists in Mental Health

Calling all Generalists in Mental Health: Your section needs you!

The AMA's Section of Generalists in Mental Health works to advance the interests of our patients by being a proud voice and advocate for mental health issues in Alberta.

Now more than ever, we need wider representation from the diverse world of our practice.

We want your perspective, your insight and your ideas.

We are currently recruiting members interested in joining our section, at any level of involvement.

To reach the Section of Generalists in Mental Health President, Dr. Lisa Ma, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

General Psychiatry

Update from Section President, Dr. Kathy Fitch

Huge thanks to psychiatrists completing the AMA's Hours of Work surveys. Your efforts are incredibly appreciated! Please thank your colleagues who have been doing their part to support these ongoing efforts towards income equity.

To update you, in recent months the Section of General Psychiatry has collaborated with the Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry on several advocacy efforts and joined forces with other AMA Sections on the Mental Health and Addictions Coalition. The Sections of General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Presidents were also part of a panel that led to the unanimous passing of a motion at the Spring AMA Representative Forum, to prioritize advocacy for a mental health strategy for youth that incorporates physician voices. Check our [website](#) to review some of the media coverage, letters and responses around the C&A mental health crisis.

Please join us! APA Docs Lounge occurs Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 pm and upcoming sessions include September 29, November 24, February 23, and April 27. To register for the September 29 session, click [HERE](#). APA Docs Lounge is open to all members and is a unique opportunity to connect and debrief with colleagues from across Alberta, and members of the Executive. Help us bring your voice to upcoming AMA RFs and most effectively represent your general interests by joining the conversation and raising current issues in your practice.

The next three AMA RFs will be occurring September 23-24, 2022 (Calgary), March 10-11, 2023 (Calgary) and September 22-23, 2023 (Edmonton). All AMA members may attend as observers, based on limited availability and advanced registration, but only RF Delegates (e.g., Section Representatives) can vote on RF motions. Engage and help us bring your voice to the table.

Wishing you all a relaxing summer!

To reach the Section of General Psychiatry, Dr. Kathy Fitch, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

General Surgery

Review in the Rockies and Annual General Meeting

Dates: November 11-13, 2022

Location: Banff Springs Hotel

Please hold the date and attend!

For registration details click [HERE](#).

Events scheduled include:

- Friday Night wine and cheese
- Saturday night gala dinner with Red Bull Adventurer Will Gadd!
- Saturday Academic Sessions: Controversies in Diverticulitis Management, Rehabilitation, debates and more
- Sunday morning Annual General Meeting

There are limited rooms available at the specified rate, so do not wait too long to book as this date is a long weekend (No elective Friday OR's).

MOCOMP Accreditation applied for this year (remember to pay your General Surgery Section dues this Fall so you can attend and claim MOCOMP points).

General Surgery Care Deficit

As you may know, many centres are experiencing gaps in coverage or strain on resources due to diversion of patients. We are advocating within the AMA and with the media. If you know of issues affecting quality of care in General Surgery, please feel free to email me via Section Services.

To reach the Section of General Surgery President, Dr. Anthony Gomes, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Pediatrics

Pediatric Mental Health Care Deficit

As part of the AMA Care Deficit series, the pediatric mental health care deficit was the first issue to be highlighted. If you have a parent who may be interested in talking to the media about this care deficit or if you have stories about the care deficit that you would like to share, please email Dr. Sam Wong and he will contact you about how to go about sharing your stories.

To reach the Section of Pediatrics President, Dr. Sam Wong, please email [AMA Section Services](#).



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