



May 2023

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General News

Funds offered through CII/CPAR Acceleration Grant now available

The Community Information Integration and Central Patient Attachment Registry (CII/CPAR) enables physicians and their teams to share patient information to Alberta Netcare directly from their electronic medical record (EMR). The [AMA Agreement](#) includes a \$12 million CII/CPAR Acceleration Grant funded by Alberta Health and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The grant is intended to compensate physicians for their time and the administrative requirements related to enrolment and participation in CII/CPAR.

CII/CPAR is for both family physicians and non-family medicine specialists. New and existing participating physicians will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000 for their first data submission to CII/CPAR, and a second payment will be issued after at least three months of data is submitted. You can read more about the [grant and eligibility criteria here](#). If you have any questions on CII/CPAR or the Acceleration Grant, please email ciicpar@albertadoctors.org.

New JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program makes it easy to thank your colleagues

The [JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program](#) gives physicians the opportunity to thank their colleagues for acts of kindness, both big and small. Just complete this short [submission form](#) and we'll make sure the message gets to the person you want to express your appreciation to so you can brighten their day.

Messages can be sent anonymously or with your name included. With your consent, we will also highlight some of the comments we receive on the AMA website or in publications like *Alberta Doctors' Digest* or *MD Scope*.

AMA continues its election information program

Last month, the AMA launched a public information program to help ensure that health care remains front and center for Albertans in the coming provincial election. There were seven key issues identified by physicians and patients through our online patient communities as well as our 2022 [Care Deficit Assessment Series](#). The Joint Physician Advocacy Committee (JPAC) and Representative Forum vetted the issues and physician experts in each area of focus developed the content.

Most recently, we released information on Rural Health and Indigenous Health. You can read all of the issue summaries [here](#). The goal is to help Albertans consider their own expectations from the health care system so they can make an informed choice at the polls.

CMA Awards winners announced

The Canadian Medical Association has announced this year's [CMA Awards recipients](#). In total, 14 dedicated and passionate learners and professionals were recognized for driving a better future for health. Our sincere congratulations to this year's recipients, four of whom are from Alberta. Nominations for the 2024 CMA Awards will open on September 30.

Online applications for AMA committee openings now being accepted

Applications are due **May 15**.

The AMA is currently recruiting to fill upcoming vacancies on the committees listed below. The terms will be October 2023 to September 2026.

- AMA Compensation Committee
- Committee on Financial Audit
- Fees Advisory Committee
- Health Issues Council

The AMA's Nominating Committee will consider all applications at its May meeting. Its recommendations will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval in July and applicants will be contacted shortly thereafter. The AMA is committed to diversity and inclusion in its committee appointment process.

Our online application process makes it easy to apply! Visit the [AMA website](#) (member login required) to view the postings, committee descriptions and apply.

Nominate someone today for an AMA Achievement Award

The Alberta Medical Association is calling for Achievement Award nominations for individuals who have contributed to the improvement of the quality of health care in Alberta.

Nominations must be submitted by **May 15**.

The [Medal for Distinguished Service](#) is given to a physician(s) who has made an outstanding personal contribution to medicine and to the people of Alberta, and in the process has contributed to the art and science of medicine while raising the standards of medical practice.

The [Medal of Honour](#) is awarded to a non-physician(s) who has raised the standards of health care and contributed to the advancement of medical research, medical education, health care organization, health education and/or health promotion to the public.

The [AMA Award for Compassionate Service](#) honours a physician who is an AMA member and, during their career, has demonstrated outstanding compassion, philanthropy and/or volunteerism to improve the state of the community in which they are giving back. The awards will be presented at the 2023 AMA Fall RF President's award dinner.

To request a nomination form for these awards, please contact Debbie Kuss, Administrative Assistant, Public Affairs, debbie.kuss@albertadoctors.org, 780-453-3782, toll-free at 1-800-272-9680, ext. 3782 or visit the [AMA website](#).

To read more about the 2022 honourees read the [AMA/CMA Awards Recognition booklet](#)

Emergency Medicine

Issues update

Currently ED flow has improved across the province. We are holding fewer EIPs and have improved flow to the floors. We are still, however, dealing with staffing shortages across the province in both nursing as well as physician resources.

The Good Faith Clause has still not been finalized. The last proposal by the government was unacceptable and had too many exclusions. They are currently working on a new proposal and they have been notified of our frustrations with the time delay.

The allocation has been done for 2022/2023. We will be taking submissions for new fee codes for next year.

The CME benefit has been made available and should be accessed prior to July 2023.

Allocation 2023

Our section was allocated 0.5% for year one of the agreement, \$819,669. This was implemented on April 1, 2023, and retroactive to April 1, 2022. Physicians will have already received retroactive payments to account for the delayed implementation. Decreased rates will be decreased on a go-forward basis and will not result in a claw back of funds.

The Section of Emergency Medicine owns its own rate for most visit services and codes used by emerg docs more than any other section. Other sections own and control their codes

based on the same criteria. The Section of Emergency Medicine is credited or debited for rate changes made by other sections based on our utilization of that code.

The micro allocation is distributed following the sections Intra-Sectional Relative Values (INRVs), which is essentially a ranking system for the sections codes. The following list shows some of the codes that are owned by the section, are already paid according to their ranking and therefore did not receive an increase:

- 03.05CR/DR/ER Rotation duty codes
- 03.05F /FA/FB Follow up care in an ER
- 03.07A Minor consult in office
- 03.07AZ Minor consult out of office
- 03.08A Comprehensive Consultation in office
- 03.08AZ Comprehensive Consultation out of office
- 13.99DD Hernia reduction code
- 13.99H Critical care of severely ill or injured patient, per 15 minutes.
- 13.99E Resuscitation per 15 minutes

The Section increased 03.04F/G/H Comprehensive visit in an emergency department by 1.45%, which cost the section \$582, 847.

Laceration codes are shared with the Section of Family Medicine and received increases as follows:

- 98.22A Laceration face up to 2.5cm - increase 1.93%
- 98.22B Laceration face over 2.5cm and/or body over 5cms - increase 1.44%

Other codes that are not owned by the section of Emergency Medicine received the following adjustments:

- 03.01L T/U/V OMLC - no change
- 03.01LG/LH Phone consult referring physician – increase 1.96%
- 03.01LI Phone consult referring physician - decrease 0.76%
- 03.01LJ/LK/LL Phone consult., consulting physician – no change
- 03.05JC Family conference increase 1.95%
- 0305FC/D/E Follow up care in AACC/UCC - increase 1.93%
- 13.99J Emergency detention time - increase 1.93%
- 12.01 FB nose– increase 1.94%
- 12.21 FB Ear - increase 1.94%
- 25.1A Corneal FB – increase 0.34%
- 33.03A Nasal Caution – increase 0.51%

- 98.03A I +D Abscess - decrease 9.97%
- 33.01A Nasal Packing - decrease 10%

- Anesthetic - increased - 0.85%
- Most other codes were increased 1-2%

Our section has submitted fee priorities for year two allocation, which is expected to be implemented sometime later this year for the 2023-24 year. In addition, we'll soon be working on identifying year three items for the 2024-25 year, to be implemented April 1, 2024.

To reach the Section of Emergency Medicine President, Dr. Arun Abbi, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Family Medicine and Rural Medicine

ThinkHQ survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the ThinkHQ SFM/SRM member survey, which closed on April 24. We are in the process of compiling the responses and will share the feedback with members as soon as the information is ready. The results of the survey help shape our response to any MAPS or other primary care-related announcements and guide future advocacy efforts.

To reach the Section of Family Medicine Acting President, Dr. Jon Hilner, please email sfmpres@albertadoctors.org.

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Samantha Myhr, please email srmpres@albertadoctors.org.

General Surgery

SAVE THE DATE – AAGS Review in the Rockies/Section of General Surgery AGM

Dates: November 3, 4 and 5

Location: Banff Springs Hotel

Guest speaker: Sharon Wood, the first North American woman to climb Mt. Everest!

Registration (opens early May): <https://www.aags.ca/>

Join us again this year for a great academic program and AGM. Focuses will include trauma updates, breast cancer updates, mountaineering, acute general surgery and additional topics.

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

Generalists in Mental Health

Psychiatric Quarterly Updates: Perinatal Mental Health

Date: May 12

Time: 12:55 – 4:15 p.m.

Location: online

The purpose of the PQU: Perinatal Mental Health Conference is to disseminate knowledge about perinatal mental health challenges. The main objective of this conference is to provide current information about the identification, prevention and intervention of mental health disorders in pregnancy and postpartum.

Learning objectives

At the end of this course, learners will be equipped to:

- Increase awareness of trauma-informed care by identifying practical communication, behavioural and procedural interventions that will integrate trauma-informed practice into routine perinatal care.

- Describe best practices and considerations for prescribing psychotropic medications beyond SSRIs and SNRIs in the perinatal population.
- List local community resources for perinatal mental health and how to access them.

CME accreditation

This one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by the University of Calgary Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development for up to 3.25 Mainpro+® credits.

This activity is an Accredited Self-Assessment Program (Section 3) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the University of Calgary Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development. You may claim a maximum of 3.25 hours (credits are automatically calculated).

For more information on fees and to register, please visit the [event website](#).

To reach the Section of Generalists in Mental Health President-Elect, Dr. Michelle Klassen, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Gynecologic Surgery – Virtual Education Series

Date: May 15

Time: 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. (MST)

Registration: online via [link](#)

Presenters include: Dr. Chandrew Rajakumar, Section President, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Hear from expert GYN surgeons and learn about their techniques to minimize and manage surgical bleeding using the latest Ethicon energy devices and adjunctive hemostatic agents including ENSEAL® and HARMONIC® family of products and SURGICEL® family of absorbable hemostats.

To reach the Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology President, Dr. Chandrew Rajakumar, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Rural Medicine

A special podcast episode on rural medicine

The challenges facing rural medicine are not new but have been exacerbated in recent years. Three rural physicians, including Dr. Sam Myhr, the President of the Section of Rural Medicine, recently sat down to revisit their discussion on the state of rural medicine from an episode of the 2021 podcast series 'Alberta This Is Going to Hurt.' Two years later, one of those physicians has left and another is planning to leave. Listen to their discussion [here](#).

New issue paper explores the crisis in rural care

A recent issue of the University of Calgary's Centre for Health Policy Issue Brief Series, *Alberta 2023 Health System Challenges and Opportunities*, explored the current crisis in rural health care. *Priorities to Improve Rural Care* looks at the challenges facing rural health care, options and recommendations, including key enablers. You can find the full paper [here](#).

2023 Tarrant Scholarship applications are now open

The Section of Rural Medicine is now accepting applications for the 2023 Tarrant Scholarship!

Are you doing a third-year clerkship in 2023 through the University of Alberta or the University of Calgary? Do you have a particular interest in pursuing studies and career development in rural medicine? If so, you can [apply now for the Tarrant Scholarship!](#)

The Tarrant Scholarship provides funds for selected third-year medical students from the U of A and U of C who demonstrate a strong interest in developing their career in rural medicine. It is bestowed each year by the Alberta Medical Association's Section of Rural Medicine.

Established in 2004, the scholarship honours the late Dr. Michael Tarrant, a family physician and champion of rural medical undergraduate education and the development of physicians dedicated to delivering health care in rural Alberta.

You're eligible to apply if you:

- Are a University of Alberta or University of Calgary medical student in clerkship in 2023.
- Are keenly interested in building a career in rural medicine in Alberta.
- Have a strong connection to rural Alberta or another rural area.
- Demonstrate a dedication to rural medicine in your undergraduate work.
- Demonstrate a financial need (considered after the above criteria are assessed).

For more information, visit the [Tarrant Scholarship web page](#).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email: srmpres@albertadoctors.org.

The application deadline is June 1. Apply today! [Download the 2023 application form.](#)

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Samantha Myhr, please email srmpres@albertadoctors.org.



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