



Section News



November 2024

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General News

Last hours to complete CPSA Survey re Freedom of expression and CPSA's role

In her [November 14 President's Letter](#) AMA President, Dr. Shelley Duggan, wrote about government's survey regarding "legislative changes to safeguard freedom of expression for regulated professionals." Although the AMA has not received a reply from government, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is conducting a survey that provides an opportunity for you to express your opinion about freedom of expression as a physician and a self-regulated professional.

The survey **closes TODAY at noon (Friday, November 29)** and is seeking your opinion as to whether the current guidance of CPSA aligns with the perspectives of regulated members and what the role of the regulator should be in this space. Responses will be kept confidential and aggregate, anonymized responses will help to guide policy and inform applicable [Standards of Practice](#) at CPSA.

This survey should take roughly 10 minutes to complete and can be found here:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/FoESurvey2024

President's tour postponed

Due to scheduling conflicts related to advocacy and discussions with government, the last three stops on the AMA President's *Local Doctors, Local Issues* tour will be postponed until the new year. AMA President, Dr. Shelley Duggan and AMA Executive Director, Karina Guy will visit Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie and Red Deer in the new year to host town hall meetings and hear directly from members about their local issues, concerns and ideas.

Members will be informed when new dates are set. The most up-to-date information can always be found on the [Local Doctors, Local Issues](#) page on the AMA website (member login required).

Physician Recruitment and Retention Support Program (PRRSP) launched this week

The PRRSP is a temporary program, funded by Alberta Health, which provides eligible physicians with financial support to continue practicing in underserved rural communities in Alberta. This program

provides \$15M per year, for two years to eligible physicians. That works out to two payments of roughly \$4,500 per eligible year for every eligible physician – plus a top-up at the conclusion of the program. To qualify for payment through this program, you must have provided insured medical services in an eligible rural community in Alberta for at least 100 days during one or both of the 2022/2023 or 2023/2024 fiscal years. Note that if you declare that you are eligible, please allow two to three weeks for your eligibility to be reviewed and payment to be processed.

For more information about the program, eligibility and payment details, visit the [AMA website](#).

Don't forget! Claim your 2024/2025 CME benefit

The Continuing Medical Education benefit program supports physician learning and quality improvement and improves patient outcomes by funding continuous professional development and physician practice improvement activities. The 2024/2025 CME benefit program is provided through an agreement between the AMA and Alberta Health and is administered by the AMA. It provides a benefit of \$2,200 per physician for CME expenses incurred between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025. The deadline to submit 2024/2025 CME claims is March 31, 2025.

To learn more, visit www.albertadoctors.org/membership/benefits/continuing-medical-education/.

Referral information available online for patients through My Personal Records

As of October 31, Albertans will be able to view referral information for urology consults entered in the Netcare eReferral system dated October 31, 2024, and later. Referral information will be viewable through the My Personal Records (MPR) application and will include referral date, referring provider, reason for referral, referral statuses and referral status reason.

The first release of referral information in MPR will be for urology consults only. Referrals sent to other specialties will be released at a later date.

[Further information found here](#)

Canada Post disruption

Due to the Canada Post disruption, documents and reports cannot be delivered by mail. Alberta Health Services and Alberta Precision Laboratories are working to identify alternate delivery methods. Documents, letters and results previously sent via Canada Post will be sent by fax if a fax number is available. For the duration of the disruption, results may be duplicated to Connect Care In Baskets. Clinical information remains accessible electronically via Alberta Netcare.

For more information, visit [Document and Results Delivery Changes Related to the Canada Post Disruption \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](http://Document and Results Delivery Changes Related to the Canada Post Disruption (albertahealthservices.ca)).

Renew your AMA membership for 2024/2025

The 2024/2025 membership year is now in full swing, and membership renewal is still open!

[Renewing your membership](#) bolsters us to continue standing together for the good of our profession, and the strength of the AMA lies in the collective expertise, experience and passion of members like you.

[Stay united and renew now!](#)

Questions?

If you have any questions about AMA membership, please contact Jennifer McCombe, AMA Membership and Benefits Team Leader: 780-732-3359 | toll-free 1-800-272-9680 | email

jennifer.mccombe@albertadoctors.org.

Apply today: Canadian Medical Association leadership opportunities

The Canadian Medical Association is looking for physician leaders to help build a better future of health, health care and a thriving health workforce.

The CMA has several leadership vacancies for an initial term starting in 2025. They include roles with the:

- CMA Board of Directors
- Awards Committee
- Committee on Ethics
- Nominations Committee

The deadline for eligible members to apply is December 31.

[Learn more](#) about these leadership opportunities and how to apply.

If you have any questions, please reach out to governance@cma.ca.

Got a minute? Thank a colleague through JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program

The JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program gives physicians the opportunity to thank their colleagues for their acts of kindness, big and small. The process is as quick and easy as sending an email.

Complete the [submission form](#) and we will make sure the message gets to the person you want to express your appreciation to.

Section of Clinical Assistants

Save the date – Section of Clinical Assistants Annual General Meeting (virtual)

Date: Friday, December 6
Time: 7 p.m.
Venue: Zoom

Agenda package sent to section members November 21.

To reach the Section of Clinical Assistants President, Dr. Khurram Elahi, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Emergency Medicine

AMA CME funds for 2024 are now available.

For further information, log in and claim your CME credits and funding on the [AMA Website](#).

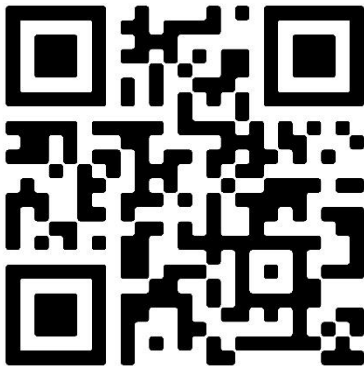
QR Code Campaign Champions

As previously communicated, we are seeking local champions, especially rural hospitals, to distribute QR code cards to patients and fellow physicians. Please email Section Services (section.services@albertadoctors.org) or Section of Emergency Medicine President, Dr. Warren Thirsk (wartan@shaw.ca) to request QR codes be shipped to you. Please put your name/email on the google doc so we can track champions: docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E5QcEiarGB5S2-a5meDAShtltHf2k6tUPOn3usl-qE/edit?usp=sharing

QR Code Tips

The easiest way to help patients find their voices is to tape a QR code to the back of your ID badge – always accessible as patients share or vent their concerns about the system to you in the ED. You can also screenshot the QR code below and keep it on your phone.

Please do not ask nurses to distribute the QR codes. They are AHS employees and a memo has gone out directing them not to participate. We support our nursing colleagues in their own job actions but do not wish our QR code campaign to cause problems.



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

Section of Family Medicine

Member survey complete – thank you to those who participated.

On October 22, the Section of Family Medicine Executive launched a survey to gather baseline information on who you are, how you practice and what matters most to you right now. The survey closed on November 12 and received almost 500 responses. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their information. The data is currently being compiled and will be shared as soon as it is available.

Section of Generalists in Mental Health

CME opportunity - the Medical Psychotherapy Association Canada (MDPAC) program has a new cohort starting soon. Visit [MDPAC](#) for further information.

The section is working on a formal after-hours call group as required by CPSA. We only had a few physicians showing interest a year ago, so we are making another effort to gather a larger group to make the call requirements reasonable. Most of us have never been called after hours, so we expect the actual work commitment to be very light. This would be remunerated FFS, and there may be a very small charge to each individual physician to cover the cost of technology to have this up and running due to our group being spread out province-wide. If anyone is interested in being part of this, please send your details to section.services@albertadoctors.org for further communications. Deadline to respond is December 15.

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

Section of Internal Medicine

Save the date – Section of Internal Medicine Annual General Meeting is February 11, 2025.

We will be looking to fill several positions in our executive committee so please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to be involved. Further information to be sent to section members soon.

To reach the Section of Internal Medicine President, Dr. Troy Pederson, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Medical Oncology

Save the date – Section of Medical Oncology Annual General Meeting (virtual)

Date: Monday, December 9

Time: 4 p.m.

Venue: Zoom

Agenda package sent to section members November 25.

To reach the Section of Medical Oncology President, Dr. John Walker, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Palliative Medicine

Save the date – Section of Palliative Medicine Annual General Meeting (virtual)

Date: Monday, December 2

Time: 5 p.m.

Venue: Zoom

Agenda package sent to section members November 15.

To reach the Section of Palliative Medicine President, Dr. Marisa Dharmawardene, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Radiation Oncology

Save the date – Section of Radiation Oncology Annual General Meeting (virtual)

Date: Wednesday, December 4

Time: 4 p.m.

Venue: Zoom

Agenda package sent to section members November 13.

To reach the Section of Radiation Oncology Medicine President, Dr. Muhammad Faruqi, please email [AMA Section Services](#)

Section of Rural Medicine

Physician Recruitment and Retention Support Program (PRRSP)

Last week AMA President, Dr. Shelley Duggan, released a [President's Letter](#) announcing the launch of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Support Program (PRRSP). This new, temporary program will provide financial support to continue practicing in underserved rural communities in Alberta. Once you declare you are eligible, expect it to take about two to three weeks for your eligibility to be reviewed and payment to be processed.

To learn more, visit the [AMA website](#).

To reach the Section of Rural Medicine President, Dr. Rithesh Ram, please email RuralMedicine@albertadoctors.org.
