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HPCN Updates

Influenza updates from AHS Calgary-Zone

AHS has developed a poster that can be used in your clinics to promote healthy flu habits. Here is the [poster](#) along with [current statistics](#). More information and

resources for the public is available at ahs.ca/influenza.

Communicable Disease Advisory: Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM)

Increased numbers of cases of Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) primarily affecting children have been reported in 22 US States recently. The US CDC is working with state health departments to gather additional information and to determine potential causes, but to date, no one pathogen has been detected consistently in specimens. **In Canada, there have been anecdotal reports of an increase in cases of AFM.** As of October 25, 2018 there have been 18 confirmed cases of AFP in Canada, within the expected range for the year.

More information is available on the [AHS Communicable Disease Advisory](#).



Cannabis bylaws in our PCN area

With the legalization of cannabis and the number of questions surrounding what's acceptable within our communities' bylaws, the team at the Highland Primary Care Network has compiled this list:

[Airdrie:](#)

Airdrie has a recreational or medicinal public consumption site located at 269 Sierra Springs Dr. SE. which is south of Co-Cp. Additionally, cannabis can be consumed at special events in designated areas with city approval.

[Carstairs:](#)

Recreational cannabis consumption is prohibited in any public places with the exception of a permit for a special event. Medical cannabis is also exempt from the by-law.

[Didsbury:](#)

Consumption of recreational and medical cannabis is prohibited in any public

place in Didsbury. There are no links available online to the actual by-law.

Irricana:

Prohibited in public but with several possible exceptions for events, campgrounds, etc based on town approval. Bylaw designates the inside of a car as a private location as long as the windows are closed.

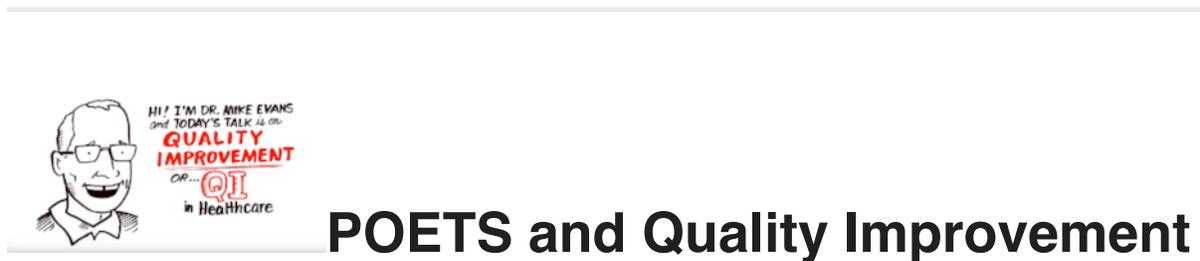
Rocky View County:

No public consumption in any public place or at any event, including no public consumption at Parks, Municipal Reserves, Environmental Reserves, etc. There is no distinction in the bylaw between recreational or medicinal cannabis.

Beiseker, Crossfield or Cremona had no specific information regarding bylaws, but [Global news](#) has provided information regarding bylaws all over the province.

Medical Cannabinoids Prescribing Algorithm

AHS has provided a Medical Cannabinoids Prescribing Algorithm. View the Algorithm [here](#).



The Highland PCN is committed to sharing information with all of our physician members, clinicians and staff. On October 18, we held a regular POET (Proactive Encounter Technician) meeting where the key focus areas were:

- Quality Improvement - what it is, why it is important, what are some of the challenges, and how POETs support the process
- Patient's Medical Home Assessments - what they are, what are the benefits and how POETs can become involved
- Calendar of Searches - a more detailed plan for panelling, EMR searches and reporting of screen rates, measuring and reporting of time to third

next, etc. Your POET now has new knowledge and tools to complete their work in a consistent manner.

The Overview of the meeting is available [here](#), as well as a [brief video](#) by Canadian physician Mike Evans where he explains Quality Improvement in Healthcare.

Clarification on referral process for hip and knee arthroplasty programs

The Calgary Zone has a centralized intake model for accepting referrals for hip and knee surgical assessment. Central Intake supports fair and equitable wait times for all patients. There are two centers for intake, one at the South Health Campus Bone and Joint Clinic and the other at the Alberta Hip and Knee Clinic at Gulf Canada Square. These two centers support all of the Calgary Zone Orthopaedic Arthroplasty surgeons regardless of the site at which the surgery is performed. The two clinics share referral lists and have comparable wait times.

Referrals for hip or knee arthroplasty through central triage can be sent to the "Next Available" surgeon or as a direct referral to a specified surgeon. Wait times to a specific surgeon tend to be longer than the "next available" queue. If a patient's condition changes, please resubmit the referral with the relevant changes or contact the clinic/surgeon to which the patient has been referred. The referral/update will be reviewed by a surgeon and any re-triaging or changes to patient status will be communicated back to the referring agent.

If surgery is required, all bookings occur through the central OR booking process for AHS facilities and the wait time for surgery starts at the time a surgeon sends the booking to the facility. This OR booking process is the same regardless of the referring agent, and regardless if it is originally a direct referral or through the "next available" process.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Jason Werle
@ Jason.werle@ahs.ca

Questions and concerns from members

Will there be a chance to watch "Falling through the Cracks: Greg's story" in Airdrie?

Yes, the Highland PCN will be showing this film in the early spring. Together with the Airdrie Health Foundation, we are planning an event that will be for our physicians, clinicians and the public. This event aligns with one of our business plan objectives - partnerships and transitions of care - and will concentrate on identifying problem areas, exploring options for improvement and discussing possibilities for solutions going forward.

The Airdrie and Area Health Cooperative is also screening this film on December 6, 2018. The event takes place at the Town and Country Centre (275 Jensen Drive NE, Airdrie) starting at 5pm. The film screening begins at 7pm and is followed by a panel discussion on health matters in Airdrie.

Our question for you

We are always looking for ways to improve our communications with our physician, clinician and staff members. With this in mind, we would like to ask you a question:

As we work to clarify and improve the role of POETs in your clinics, what advice do you have? What should we know to make it better for your clinic?

Please send your comments, questions and ideas to communications@hpcn.ca

Additional Resources

PCN resources for physicians

We have created this section in our bi-weekly Thursday newsletter and on our website under hpcn.ca/resources for physician members as a tool to access

frequently used Highland PCN forms.

Health Improvement Program (HIP) - Online Referral Form

Health Improvement Program (HIP) - Print Referral Form

Chronic Pain Referral Form

Specialty Health Team Referral Form

Physician Service Invoice

Connect with us

Feedback regarding our Thursday newsletter can be directed to our communications team at communications@hpcn.ca.



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