

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

Acknowledging Eddy Lang

Reminder that there will be a 5-7pm celebration of Eddy Lang at Catherine's house on **November 7, 2024**.

Townhall reminder

There will be an ED townhall on **Nov 21 from 9:00-10:30am**. If there are agenda items DEM members would like to discuss please send them to catherine.patocka@ahs.ca (happy to also take questions the day of).

Catherine

Notes from James

Updated Immediate Transition (IT) Bed Process

Recently, a multidisciplinary workgroup convened to optimize the use of Immediate Transition (IT) Beds in the zone.

The workgroup included multiple ED representatives, including Colin Del Castilho (AZMD for Continuing Care), Marge McGillivray (Geriatrics Lead), Paige Guinn (SHC Geriatrics NP) and myself. In addition, the workgroup engaged LTC/Rehab physicians, Transition services nurses and Hospitalist representatives.

This work was undertaken because the IT Bed process was creating challenges for all parties involved, including:

EDs

- Prolonged ED length of stay with patients commonly held in the ED overnight awaiting evaluation for IT beds (not infrequently only to be declined in the morning)

- Pharmacy supports for the Best Possible Medical History (BPMH) were not available after hours leading to physicians left to do this task unassisted

Rehab Facilities

- Patients being transferred to rehab with issues that could not be adequately managed at rehab (e.g., pain refractory to oral analgesia) or requiring further medical workup or treatment (e.g., further assessment of potential causes of refractory back pain (e.g.r/o mets/osteo/discitis), resulting in patients being transferred back to the ED for further workup and/or hospital admission

Patients

- Poor patient experience with missed home medications and prolonged and uncomfortable stays in the disruptive ED environment increasing the risk of delirium

We hope that updated process ([see attached file](#)) will better serve all parties through the following changes:

No longer holding patients in ED overnight awaiting IT bed evaluation thereby reducing ED LOS and providing a better patient experience

- If the IT Bed evaluation cannot be completed before 2000, the Hospitalist service has agreed to admit these patients
- This also better aligns with pharmacy supports for performing BPMH

Restricting evaluation to a more focused group of patients more likely to benefit from rehab and less likely to bounce back to the ED

- This should mean fewer patients declined from IT beds
- Please see the attached document for full details, but note that the following patient presentations are **now excluded from IT beds**:
 1. Patients needing admission for **acute or chronic back pain**, particularly if accompanied by radicular pain (experience with this patient population indicates they tend to do better with admission to acute care facilities)
 2. Patients experiencing **frequent falls with no known correctable etiology**.

There were also a couple of important requests from the Rehab physicians:

- **Please place a weight bearing status order for all patients** in ConnectCare as part of the IT Bed IFT Orders
- **Please ensure that any necessary referrals/follow-up appointments are ordered (e.g, Cast Clinic)** and documented in ConnectCare prior to the patient leaving the ED

We have also agreed that decisions about appropriate medical work-up are at the discretion of the ED MRHP (e.g., urinalysis). However, we encourage the Transition Nurses to raise any additional concerns they identify during their assessment with ED physicians. If you are asked about a particular concern/test, please try to answer their questions clearly, and if you do not feel further testing is warranted, please explain why.

We are hopeful that the new process will be an improvement for our EDs, our rehab facilities, and most importantly, our patients.

There is an ongoing evaluation of the program, so please feel to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

James (james.andruchow@ahs.ca)

DEM Academic Grand Rounds and Journal Club

Grand Rounds Thursday October 31, 2024 (0900 —1000) (1.0 Education Credits)

Room: Clara Christie - HSC

Zoom Link: <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/61834756597?pwd=Skg1ZmdXOGdRWmgxMUc0U3lNMjR5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 618 3475 6597 Passcode: 407952

Speakers:

- Deborah E. Prowse KC, Chair, Mental Health Review Panel (Calgary South)
- Sharon Sproule, Vice Chair, Mental Health Review Panel

Title: Nightmare of the Mental Health Act

Description: Deb and Sharon will be providing an overview of the requirements of the Mental Health Act forms and why they are not just “another form to fill out”.

Evaluation Link:

[DEM Academic Grand Rounds Evaluation - Google Forms](#)

[To view archived grand rounds, please visit our website.](#)

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

The topic for the Pearl of the week is: [SCARs: Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms \(DRESS\)](#)

Mark Yarema

Journal Club

You are invited to attend the Emergency Medicine Journal Club on:

**Emergency
Medicine
Journal
Club**

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024

Time: 18:00 to 21:00

Topic: The sonographic protocol for the emergent evaluation of aortic dissections (SPEED protocol)

Presenters: Drs. Allen Vorobeichik and Anil Keshvara

Preceptor: Dr. Katie Lin

Hosted by: Dr. Catherine Patocka

ARTICLE 1: [The sonographic protocol for the emergent evaluation of aortic dissections \(SPEED protocol\): A multicenter, prospective, observational study.](#)

Please RSVP to TriSurendra.Malasani@ahs.ca by Nov 10th if attending.

Department News

Emergency Physician Spotlight

Today's spotlight features Dr. Stuart Turner. You can read more about this amazing doctor below.



Born in New Zealand(NZ) and immigrated to Canada as a child, I grew up in West Vancouver and went to med school at UBC. I did a rotating internship in Nelson NZ, where I met my wife, and returned to Canada and worked for the City of Vancouver at a “free” clinic. I also did FP locums in West Vancouver/Lions Gate Hospital. I had always been interested in emergency medicine(EM) and as Vancouver did not yet have an EM program at the time, in 1982 I applied and was accepted into Calgary’s new FRCP program which just started that year, the year EM was recognized by the RCPSC as a specialty. Pauline Head, who also continues to work in the RGH group, started the program the same year. After the residency, in 1986, I started working with the Holy Cross Hospital/Rockyview Hospital group, along with Pauline and Jim Collett. Jim just retired from the group, June

2024. The Holy Cross closed their emergency department in 1994, so we all continued work at the RGH. An incredible journey all these years with many great colleagues who have passed through the group and continue with the group. The ongoing challenging and varied clinical presentations and collegiality stimulate my interest and keep me going. A very big part of my life. This is a great job!

Outside of medicine I am involved in music (mostly sax), watersports (surfing, windsurfing and recently learning wingfoiling), skiing and mtn biking. I have three daughters and six grandchildren that keep my wife, Deb, and me very busy when I'm not working.

Kudos Corner – Patient Commendations

FMC ED Team: October 21, 2024

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved with my care from the admissions team to emergency team to all the doctors, nurses, housekeepers, food care service, and transportation team and whoever else I have forgotten about. They all treated me with the upmost care and concern I could hope for in a time of short budgets, short staffed and other cutbacks.

What first was thought of as acid indigestion to possible heart issues to a gallstones and gallbladder attack, the entire team of people made sure everything was tested, poked or prodded. They made sure I was back to 100% healthy before releasing me.

Again. My thanks to the entire team of people who made all this possible
A.M.

EMS and FMC ED Team starring Dr. Nicholas Packer: October 23, 2024

Once again, I arrived in ER, this time in an ambulance. The EMS gentlemen (Kris and Majed) were so efficient, professional, and caring. The first EMS gentleman who arrived did ECG's, took down lots of information. Sadly, I did not get his name. A huge thank you to all three paramedics.

The staff who took over when I was placed in a bed were incredible. All performed their tasks with professionalism, kindness and a smile. I can't remember all the names, but huge kudos to nurses Sarah, Brie, and Maureen who were so proficient, professional, kind and caring with even the smallest things like warm blankets, ice chips, a pillow under my knees, an escort to the washroom, all of which meant so much to me. And thank you to the technicians who attended me as well...all done with gentleness and a smile.

Also, enormous gratitude to Dr. Nicholas Packer, who took time to explain what had happened to me, the results of blood work and other tests, and even possible options moving forward. Dr. Packer's bedside manner is impeccable. A huge thank you, Dr. Packer.

Thank you, Kym-Shae, for passing on these heartfelt thanks to all involved in my care yesterday.

Sincerely,
M.A.

Teaching Opportunities

Staff Examiners Required FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : 2024 Thursday's November 28th, 2024 – In Person

The CCFP-EM Residency Program is in need of three staff examiners for the oral exams for:

- **November 28th, 2024 from 1030 – 1300**

These exams are In-Person sessions. Lunch will be provided.

Please check your availability and let me know if you can help on **November 28th, 2024** please send the responses to TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca

Your help and assistance is very much appreciated!! Once confirmed I will send Calendar invites.

Thanks,
Tris

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Updated Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: natalie.sun@ahs.ca and CC Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca.

- Submissions will run for a period of one week
- Body copy will be edited at the discretion of the editor to optimize communication
- The deadline is **Tuesday at noon**

For reoccurring submissions, **there is a max two week run and this must be requested**. If you would like to re-run your submission after two weeks, please submit with updates.

In Case You Missed Last Week

Department News

Annual Residency Program Winter Retreat

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all well! You are all invited to attend the Annual Residency Program Winter Retreat will be taking place from **February 21st-23rd 2025 at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge**. For those new to the department, this winter retreat is a great opportunity to reconnect with fellow faculty and along with the residents, participate in some fun social and faculty development activities and recharge.

In order to take advantage of the group rate of \$299.99/night please RSVP to Madhavi (madhavi.talasila@ahs.ca) and book your room with the booking code she provides you **by December 16th**. This event is family friendly – so partners and children are welcome!

We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you there!

Best regards,
Anjali, Kelsey and Charles

Teaching Opportunities

Academic Day Preceptor Opportunities

Now that the schedule is out please check out our upcoming teaching opportunities! We are recruiting staff preceptors for the Emergency Medicine academic sessions and small groups for Winter and Spring 2025.

All resident led sessions needing staff preceptors from January 1st to June 30th can be found in the link below. If you are interested in being a preceptor for one or more sessions, or have any questions, please email Kelsey (kelsey.ragan@ucalgary.ca).

[Academic Day Preceptor Google Sheet](#)

Thanks in advance for everyone's ongoing support of the EM Residency program!

Kelsey Ragan

Research

Violence in Emergency Department Research Project

[Read more about this study here.](#)

A link to the survey: bit.ly/edviolence

If you have any further questions, you can reach out to the study lead, Dr. Margriet Greidanus at mgreidan@ucalgary.ca

Pavneet Singh


