

Department of Emergency Medicine

Weekly **email**

Updates for ED Physicians

February 06, 2024 Edition

Natalie

Operations

Notes from James

FAST Referral Issues

You may have recently seen a memo identifying a serious referral problem with FAST.

The FAST (Facilitated Access to Specialist Treatment) central triage recently came online, servicing Orthopedics & Spine, Urology and Vascular Surgery outpatient referrals. Unfortunately, a serious gap has been identified where a number of outpatient referrals may have been sent to a legacy fax number which was no longer in service during the August 9, 2023 – January 1, 2024 time frame. Consequently a number of referrals to these specialties may have been significantly delayed or lost.

We have been looking into this carefully with our site leads, site managers and unit clerks. To the best of our knowledge, this issue has not impacted any of the referrals from Calgary EDs, as our Unit Clerks were both using the correct fax number and are very diligent in following up to ensure referrals are received.

In summary:

- What is the issue?
 - Some outpatient referrals via FAST to Orthopedics & Spine, Urology and Vascular Surgery from Aug 9, 2023-Jan 1, 2024 may have been delayed or lost because an incorrect legacy fax number was being used.
 - The correct number is 1-833-627-7023

- Were referrals from our Calgary Zone EDs affected?
 - No – to the best of our knowledge. If we find out otherwise, we will let you know ASAP.

- What do you have to do?
 - Nothing at this point - if you only work in Calgary Zone EDs.
 - If you work in another setting (e.g., primary care, urgent care, rural EM) and may have referred to any of the above specialties using FAST in the above time window, you will need to confirm with your local unit clerks/manager team that the correct number was used. We have let our Urgent Care leadership know about this issue as well.

Code Stroke Pathway - Notification of Go-Live Feb 20, 2023

Please see important information below regarding the new Code Stroke Pathway, developed to standardize response and early management of inpatient stroke in the Calgary Zone. As many of you may know, outcomes are significantly worse for those who sustain an inpatient stroke compared to those who have a stroke in the community. This pathway aims to address this care gap.

There is a broad implementation plan in place on both the faculty/learners and AHS operation sides, including in person training sessions, videos, etc.

Code Stroke Pathway has been developed to standardize response and early management to **Inpatient Stroke in the Calgary Zone**.

- **Inclusion:** Suspected stroke of hospitalized adult patients, including Emergency Inpatients (EIPs), at the four acute care sites in the Calgary Zone. GOC > M1
- **Exclusion:** Non-admitted patients, GOC M2 or lower
- **Go-Live:** February 20, 2024

The screenshot shows a medical order form for a CT Head and Neck Angiogram. The form is titled "CT Head and Neck Angiogram" and has "Accept" and "Cancel" buttons in the top right. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Process Instructions:** LABS: A serum Creatinine with GFR calculation is required within 1 week for inpatients. IV ACCESS: Adults require patent 18 G IV minimum right antecubital site preferred when clinically possible (or pressure injectable PICC or CVC).
- Priority:** STAT (selected), Routine, Urgent.
- Frequency:** Once (selected), 16/11/2023, Today (selected), Tomorrow, 21:37.
- Reason for Exam:** Common Indications for Exam: Dizziness, non-specific; Neuro deficit, acute, stroke suspected; Dizziness, persistent/recurrent, cardiac or vascular cause suspected; Transient ischemic attack (TIA). Trauma Indications for Exam: Reason for Exam (Free Text): +ve STROKE findings: garbled speech, left side weakness.
- Clinical question to be answered:** (Empty field)
- Comments:** (Empty field with a rich text editor toolbar)
- Pager #:** XXXXX
- Last Resulted:** No Creatinine Clearance results found.

Code Stroke Pathway has been developed, with zone-wide stakeholders, in response to variation and high response times for stroke symptom recognition and treatment.

Code Stroke Target times:

- Recognition to Diagnostic Imaging for CT-A: 15 minutes
- Recognition to Decision to Stroke Team Contact: 20 minutes
- Recognition to Treatment: 60 minutes

Key Responsibilities for Clinicians (including Physicians, Residents and Nurse Practitioners): see attached standard work for details.

[CODE Stroke Standard Work Process \(RGH,PLC,SHC\)](#)

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/2_February/CODE Stroke Standard Work Process RGHPLCSHC.pdf?id=y4l8ibj?f_type=file&f_name=CODE Stroke Standard Work Process RGHPLCSHC.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/2_February/CODE%20Stroke%20Standard%20Work%20Process%20RGHPLCSHC.pdf?id=y4l8ibj?f_type=file&f_name=CODE%20Stroke%20Standard%20Work%20Process%20RGHPLCSHC.pdf)

CODE Stroke Standard Work Process (FMC)

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/2_February/CODE Stroke Standard Work Process FMC.pdf?id=ridu5yn?f_type=file&f_name=CODE Stroke Standard Work Process FMC.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/2_February/CODE%20Stroke%20Standard%20Work%20Process%20FMC.pdf?id=ridu5yn?f_type=file&f_name=CODE%20Stroke%20Standard%20Work%20Process%20FMC.pdf)

These will be posted on inpatient units.

- Timely response to stroke symptom notification: 5 minutes from receipt of page to assessment / imaging order
- Correct ordering of Stroke CT
- Early notification of RAAPID (if at PLC, RGH, SHC) or Stroke Team (at FMC)

Additional resources: Calgary Stroke Program – Insite page (AHS login required)
: <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/cnc/Page28484.aspx>

Coming soon: Code Stroke Pathway Review video

Questions? Contact the Code Stroke Pathway team:

Erin Barrett – Neurosciences Quality Improvement Lead: erin.barrett@ahs.ca

Lindsay Beaulieu – Stroke Program Coordinator: lindsay.beaulieu@albertahealthservices.ca

Macneil Cornez – Calgary Stroke Program Manager: macneil.cornez@ahs.ca

Dr. Mohammed Almekhlafi – Medical director - Acute stroke unit (unit 100) Foothills Medical Center, Interventional stroke neurologist - Calgary Stroke Program



Hello Everyone, here is the Connect Care update for the week:

1) HYPERDRIVE COMETH

Once all sites are launched, the desktop will be edited to include only one PRD icon. Fortunately this inconvenience should only last two weeks.

2) FORM 1 NOTES

Just another gentle reminder that when e-Signing Form 1's in Connect Care, you MUST sign the form to make it valid. IF the signature box remains blocked, this means that the Form is missing a mandatory piece of information that needs to be completed to make the Form valid. Simply printing the Form to avoid the blocked e-Signature field and signing it manually is NOT a viable workaround - the missing information will render the Form invalid. Remember, the blocked signature box is a safeguard / reminder that the Form is not yet complete and the field will open when the mandatory information is entered.

3) IMAGING PRIORITY

Please note that the default priority setting for all ED imaging ordered in Connect Care is INTENDED to be URGENT. Unlike in SCM, STAT should NOT be the default setting for our imaging requests. Truly time-sensitive images (eg - acute stroke, unstable patients, etc) can have the priority field changed to STAT to alert the DI tech and the radiologist of the importance of the study - but it would still be important to call them to ensure the scan is prioritized appropriately. Changing all of your DI orders to STAT makes it difficult for the tech / radiologist to accurately triage the large number of studies coming from the ED - please be mindful that doing so will likely have a negative impact on the timing of other studies being requested from our department.

4) DICTATION ISSUES

After a period of connection issues, Dragon's Powermic app seems to have been enjoying a period of improved functionality. In order to get a better sense of how well the app is working for the group, I would be grateful if you would consider filling out this quick survey (1 minute completion time): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SXTPDJG> I am hopeful that we have come to a resolution for most of the previous connection issues, but if there are still a large number of you out there who cannot connect reliably we will continue to see what we can do to improve the situation.

5) CONNECT CARE UPDATES

If you are interested in keeping up with the latest developments in Connect Care, remember you can access the 'What's New' section of the Connect Care Manual here: <https://manual.connect-care.ca/home/whats-new>

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let me know,

Chris

Grand Rounds and Journal Club

QAER Rounds Thursday February 08, 2024 (0900—1000)

NOTE: NOT RECORDED

Room: Theatre 4 – HSC

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

Short Zoom: Meeting ID: 618 3475 6597
Passcode: 407952

Speaker: Dr. Dirk Chisholm

Moderator: Dr. Adam Oster

Title: **A Case of Ruptured Ectopic Pregnancy in the ED: Signs of a Strained System.**

Description: The rounds will focus on system level issues contributing to an adverse event in a Calgary Zone ED.

Evaluation Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfE89aef_BC5V_zgP6JjXVrkJ3GP0fcyMezgAXKCKvwrQRog/viewform



Emergency Medicine Journal Club on Thursday,
February 15th, 2024

Time: 18:00 to 21:00

Topic: Derivation of Falls Decision Rule to Exclude Intracranial Bleeding in Older Adults After a Fall Without the Need for Computed Tomography (CT) Scan of the Head

Presenters: Drs. Mary Freymond, Allen Vorobeichik and Tess Loch

Preceptor: Drs. Meg & Miles Hunter

Hosted by: Dr. Andrew Robinson

Reference for study protocol: Which older emergency patients are at risk of an intracranial bleeding after a fall? A protocol to derive a clinical decision rule for the emergency department. DeWit et al 2021

Departmental News

Kudos Corner

A big congratulations to our following colleagues for all their hard work. Please express best wishes when you see them next.

- **Congratulations** to Niklas Bobrovitz on his successful application to the Grant Innes Resident Research Award for his project "Optimizing emergency department stretcher utilization by increasing the proportion and efficiency of patient transfers to step down areas".
- **Congratulations** to Dr. Colin Bell for his published article. Canadian association of emergency physicians emergency ultrasound committee best practice recommendations on point-of-care ultrasound disinfection - <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43678-024-00652-0>.
- **Congratulations** to Dr. Andrew McRae for his major grant award from the Canadian Institute of Health Research for a multicentre chest pain study.

Title: Development of a novel risk prediction tool for risk of major adverse cardiac events among patients with chest pain who have had myocardial infarction ruled out in the Emergency Department

Applicant: Dr. Andrew D. McRae

With: Dr. J. Andruchow Dr. B. Borgundvaag Dr. S. Brooks Dr. M. Graham

Dr. C. Hohl Dr. J. Holodinsky Dr. P. Kavsak Dr. E. Lang

Dr. S. McLeod Dr. T. Sajobi Dr. F. Scheuermeyer Dr. V. Thiruganasambandamoorthy

Dr. J. Yan

Funded: \$1,268,155; 3 years

- **Congratulations** to co-Principle Applicant Crowder and Co-Investigators Drs. McGillivray and Lang for their recent CIHR grant awarded.

January 31, 2024. "Restraining Restraint Use for Older Adults in Alberta Emergency Services". CIHR Project Grant.

nPA: Z Goodarzi

Co-PA: J Watt, J Bakal, M Hoben, **K Crowder**.

Co-I: J Holroyd-Leduc, M Emond, V Ewa, J Goldstien, Z Ismail, A Jones, **E Lang**, J Lee, **M McGillivray**, P McLane, J Perry, K Reich, R Schonnop, D Seitz, J Silvius

Collab: I Blanchard, A Baker, D Duquette, S Forrester, K Foudy, L Fox, L Fritzke, B Gohel, V Hopwood Crawford, A Howley, J Hudspeth, M Khusheim, R Lee, B Liu, M MacDonald, M Monique-Parent, Ellie Robson, Kelly Stienwand, L Torbiak.

Funded: \$539,325; 3 years

Award: Institute of Aging Prize: Yves Joannette Award of Excellence in Research in Aging.

"This prize is granted to the highest-ranking funded projects in the Fall 2023 Project Grant competition that are relevant to one of the Institute of Aging's areas as outlined in the CIHR IA Strategic Plan 2023-2028: Reframing Aging Empowering Older Adults." Amount: \$50,000.

Search and Selection Committee for the next ED Department Head

We are currently assembling a Search and Selection Committee for the next ED Department Head. Eddy's term will be completed in June 2024. Interviews will be occurring in April by a group that will include five staff physicians chosen to represent the department's varied interests. There are a number of criteria that need to be met for the selection committee members: we want to ensure that we have representation from

clinical, educational/academic, administrative, all sites, and a diversity of backgrounds/genders/experience.

If you are interested in being part of the committee, please email Nancy Zuzic and Meira Louis directly (nancy.zuzic@ahs.ca; meira.louis@ahs.ca) by February 18th. If you have previously expressed interest to James, Eddy, or anyone else, we still need the following info sent directly to us. We will contact folks directly after we confirm the final group.

To assist in the selection of a committee that meets the criteria required, please include the following:

- Name:
- Number of Years in the Dept:
- Primary site(s) and prior site experience:
- Designation (FRCP vs CCFP-EM):
- Current or previous Academic appt y/n and title if yes:
- Current or previous Leadership role y/n and title if yes:
- Why you are interested in being on the committee (1 to 2 sentences):

Wellness Peer Support

The practice of medicine is rewarding but may be challenging. The University of Calgary Department of Emergency Medicine has a formal Peer Support Team. We encourage you to reach out to our trained peer supporters when dealing with personal or professional challenges such as relationship issues, poor patient outcomes, career-track indecision, occupational distress or mental health concerns.

Here is the list of formally trained Peer Supporters.

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/Peer_Support_Contact_Info.pdf?id=9j5cd9u?f_type=file&f_name=Peer_Support_Contact_Info.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/Peer_Support_Contact_Info.pdf?id=9j5cd9u?f_type=file&f_name=Peer_Support_Contact_Info.pdf)

You can call the Physician and Family Support Program (PFSP) 24/7 at 1877SOS4MDS for help. You are entitled to free counselling for yourself and for your family members.

2024 Annual Information Verification and Attestation (AIVA)

Your 2024 Annual Information Verification and Attestation (AIVA) for the AHS Medical Staff is now available for your review and completion. We expect the average Practitioner will need less than 5 minutes to complete.

The deadline to submit your AIVA is **February 17, 2024**.

You will need to login to AHS for the following links:

Please follow this link https://albertahealthservices.service-now.com/esc?id=sc_cat_item&sys_id=6023587487c4f510ded5ca68cebb35d7 to access your AIVA on the AHS Service Hub. Log in using your **AHS username** and current password.

If you need to reset your AHS password, or are having difficulties accessing your AIVA, please contact AHS IT Support at 1-877-311-4300.

Please direct any other questions to AIVA@ahs.ca or contact Provincial Medical Affairs Shared Systems Support at 1-888-705-1581.

For additional information about completing your AIVA please review the FAQ document: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/if-hp-phys-aiva-faq.pdf>

Thank you in advance for completing your AIVA.

EDMD Periodic Review Working Group

The EDMD periodic review working group is looking for 2-3 non-leadership physician members from all career stages from either RGH/SHC/FMC/PLC. The committee will meet 3 times for 1hr over the next 2-3 months to help review and improve the new hire and periodic review process. We are hoping to identify

ideal feedback that is most helpful for our physician staff to reflect and improve on their clinical practice along with standardizing these reviews across the zone.

If you are interested in joining the working group, please email jill.vandenbrand@ahs.ca

Clinical/Adjunct Promotions and Awards Deadlines

The 2024 deadlines and application requirements for the Clinical/Adjunct promotion process can be found here on our website: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/emergency-medicine/kudos/academic-appointment-promotions-emergency-medicine>

Important forms include:

- 2024 Promotions Process
- Education Contributions for the Purpose of Promotion

The 2024 deadlines for the Clinical/Adjunct/Research promotions below:

February 16, 2024:

Recommendations for promotion to Professor (Clinical/Adjunct/Research only) due.

Documents required:

- list of names/addresses/email of 6 external referees. Identify the 3 referees nominated by candidate. Provide brief background comments about each referee, including any relationship with the candidate. As per Section C2 of the CAR Criteria, external referees must i) be external to the University, ii) hold or have held academic rank at the full Professor level and iii) have an arm's length relationship with the candidate (not published together in the last six years, not a former supervisor, and not a current collaborator).
- updated curriculum vitae in Faculty format.
- Department Head's letter of recommendation. (If candidate holds a joint appointment in other Department(s), arrange for other Head(s) to forward their recommendation letters by this date.)
- 5 best publications
- separate list of candidate's 5 best publications, including a brief overview of the importance of each publication and, in multi-authored publications, a definition of the role of the applicant in the work.
- Teaching dossier. Resources can be found at <https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/teaching-dossiers>

March 8, 2024:

Recommendations for promotion to Clinical/Adjunct/Research Associate or Assistant Professor due in the Dean's Office

Documents required:

- updated curriculum vitae in Faculty format.
- Department Head's letter of recommendation. (If candidate holds a joint appointment in other Department(s), arrange for other Head(s) to forward their recommendation letters by this date.)
- Teaching dossier, where applicable. Resources can be found at <https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/teaching-dossiers>

For questions, please contact Jordan-Rose Detillieux: Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca

Teaching Opportunities

STAFF EXAMINERS Required FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : 2024

Thursday's March 14, 2024 – In Person

The CCFP-EM Residency Program is **still in need of two staff examiners** for the oral exams for the date below:

- **March 14th 2024 from 1030 – 1300**

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

Please check your availability and let me know if you are able to help on any of these dates and please send the responses to TriSurendra.Malasani@ahs.ca

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



2024 ED Staff Sim Sign Up:

Jan - June 2024 Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AAAD22A5F8C25-46179322-2024/32137917#/>

2024 ED Junior SIM Facilitators Needed for our EM Residents:

Jan-June 2024 Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4CA5AC2EAAFF2-20232024#/>

Job Postings

FRCP Assistant Program Director, Department of Emergency Medicine

The Department of Emergency Medicine is now inviting applications for the position of Emergency Medicine Assistant FRCP Program Director.

To apply for this opportunity, please email me a cover letter highlighting your interest and skillset for this position, along with an updated CV. Cover letters and CVs should be emailed to: ScottH.Banks@albertahealthservices.ca and should be received no later than **February 16, 2024**. Please feel free to contact Dr. Anjali Pandya (anjali.pandya@gmail.com) for further details about the role.

Full details are found on this link: https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/EmergencyMedicine/January2024/FRCPAssistantProgramDirector.pdf?id=j47dqpd?f_type=file&f_name=FRCPAssistantProgramDirector.pdf

Research

Have a great place for hosting? Want to host more events for your colleagues to enjoy?

The Hodsman committee is looking for a host for the Hodsman social event. If you are interested in potentially hosting this event, please reach out to jill.vandenbrand@ahs.ca

Invitation to participate!

We are looking for current emergency physicians, residents, and nurses currently working within the Calgary Zone to participate in our study titled: Emergency department- initiated treatment of alcohol withdrawal for the outpatient - a survey of physician attitudes, preparedness, perceived barriers to care, and perceptions of safety.

We hope you will take the time to fill out our 20-minute survey (link below) to help us understand how physicians are treating patients with AUD here in Calgary. First, we are hoping to gain a better understanding of clinician's current attitudes, preparedness to care for patients with AUD, perceived barriers to care, and perceptions of treatment safety. Second, we want to assess feasibility of implementing an ED-initiated protocol for the outpatient management of alcohol withdrawal, with the goal of hopefully improving and/or standardizing care for these patients.

An informed consent form will be included in the survey itself and be required to fill out prior to commencing. This study has been approved by the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB23-1701)

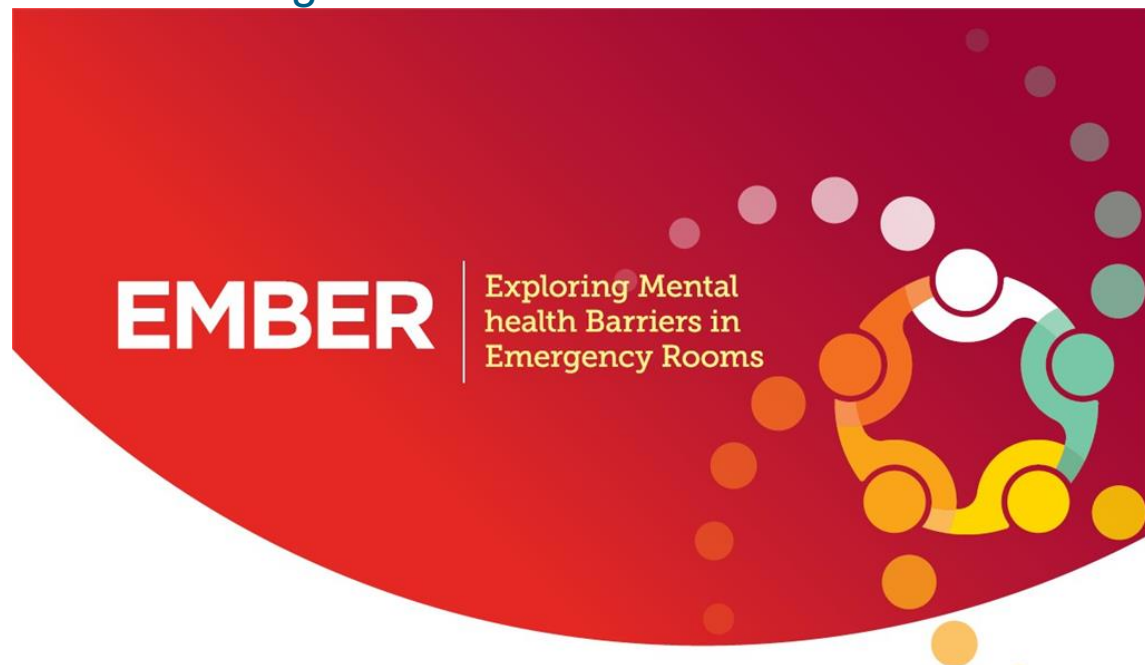
Link to survey: https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_557NwfJ8GyrdFB

Thank you so much!

Study contact: Cara McCulloch cara.mcculloch3@gmail.com

Study PI: Monty Ghosh

CME Learning



Recruiting FMC ED participants for a Trauma and Resiliency Informed Practice (TRIP) Workshop

For more information: [https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/2_February/EMBER TRIP Staff Recruitment Poster.pdf?id=froxarv?f_type=file&f_name=EMBER TRIP Staff Recruitment Poster.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/2_February/EMBER%20TRIP%20Staff%20Recruitment%20Poster.pdf?id=froxarv?f_type=file&f_name=EMBER%20TRIP%20Staff%20Recruitment%20Poster.pdf)

Connect with us directly: Phone: 403-441-3520 Email: EMBER.study@ucalgary.ca

- 4-hour virtual workshop
 - Please consider signing up if you work in FMC ED in one of the following roles:
 1. ED Physicians, Residents, and Nurses
 2. ED Psychiatric Physicians, Residents and Nurses
 3. Protective Services Staff
 - Participants will receive a \$100 gift card for participation in the workshop for completing pre/post workshop research surveys
-

CAEP Geriatric EM Course

CAEP offers a four-hour virtual course (led by Dr. Alice Gray) on clinical aspects of Geriatric ED care. It's a practical clinically focused course covering critical care; trauma; medications; cognitive impairment; and then eight shorter topics. Provided by four faculty with lots of interaction.

Our 2024 pricing for the course is \$475 for a CAEP member and \$625 for a non-CAEP member.

For ease, CAEP would offer the member rate to the entire group; as well as an additional reduction in the price bringing the registration fee down to \$425 (just over 10% discount). CAEP would offer this so long that the site/department provides a guarantee of 30 learners.

We have also just opened up registration for a course on April 25th. If you are interested in participating in this you can find more information on the website: https://caep.ca/cpd-courses/geri_em/ The website has a registration link.

Other Opportunities

Locum Physician – Urgent Care – SCHC

South Calgary Urgent Care is recruiting. Please email Matt Grabove (Medical Site Director) for more information: Matthew.Grabove@ahs.ca

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is inviting applications from family physicians with a background in urgent or emergency care or emergency physicians to join the Department of Family Medicine in Calgary.

These two positions will provide locum coverage (including days, evenings, and weekends) starting June 1 2024 at the South Calgary Health Centre (SCHC) Urgent Care Centre (UCC) until September 30, 2024.

For more information, please go to the website below:

<https://doctorjobsalberta.albertahealthservices.ca/jobs/locum-physician-%E2%80%93-urgent-care-schc-3124>

Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: natalie.sun@ahs.ca.

For reoccurring submissions, there is a **max three week run**. If you would like to re-run your submission, please resubmit with updates.

- Submissions will run for a period of one week unless specified.
 - Body copy will be edited at the discretion of the editor to optimize communication.
 - Deadline is Tuesday at noon.
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