

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

Natalie

Operations

Notes from James

Hi Folks,

I hope that you're all doing well, and you'll be able to get out and enjoy what is finally looking like some nicer weather this week. Just wanted to share a number of important updates from the departmental level. Apologies for the length as there is a lot of info.

As always, please reach out to me directly at james.andruchow@ahs.ca with any questions or concerns.

James

Calgary Zone Disposition Decision Working Group

We all too frequently encounter situations where a patient needs to be admitted, but admitting services disagree who is the best service to admit the patient. This leads to delays in admission, prolonged ED stays with associated inefficiency/opportunity cost, poor patient experience and frustration for the emergency physicians left managing

these patients. Thankfully, meaningful action is now being taken to address this issue at a zone level. A Disposition Decision Working Group has been convened at the zone level and is being led by Jim Eisner (FMC Medical Director/Hospitalist) with the support of our Zone Medical Director Mark Anselmo. The goal is to create clear admission guidelines/pathways to clarify the best admitting service for common conditions based on both patient factors and hospital capacity and avoid disposition disputes. We just had our first meeting this past week, and the goal is to have an initial implementation by spring 2025. Ian Walker and I are the ED representatives on this working group, and will keep you posted on how things go. If you are aware of any sample admission pathways/protocols from other regions, please send them to either Ian or myself.

Surgical Diversions

As you may have noticed, surgical diversions have recently increased again, as a number of clinical associates/clinical surgical assistants have left for open family medicine residency positions. We know that this places significant strain on our patients, staff and departments. As you may know, a Physician Assistant (PA) program is beginning at the UofC this fall, which should ultimately help to fill the housestaff gap, but unfortunately will not produce graduates for 2-years. In the meantime, we are continuing to work with the Department of Surgery to minimize the impact on our departments and to have greater clarity on who we consult during periods of diversion/reduced capacity.

It would be great to have emergency physicians involved in the UofC PA Program in order to familiarize them with ED practice and flow. If you are interested in taking part, please reach out to the Medical Director, Dr. Rahim Kachra (rahim.kachra@ucalgary.ca).

Proposed Orthopedic Consultation Guidelines

Last year the Orthopedic Surgery group proposed a set of [site-specific consultation guidelines](#) for each of the adult hospitals in Calgary. To be clear, there was no consultation with the Department of Emergency Medicine prior to proposing these guidelines and they have never been agreed to by our department, as there are particular clinical scenarios where we do not agree with the recommendations (e.g., “Fractures with soft tissue compromise requiring urgent surgery to offload the area of soft tissue compromise should be held overnight without call to Ortho 2300-0530”).

That being said, we want to work with the Orthopedics department (which is genuinely struggling) where reasonable so we have decided to share their proposed guidelines with you for you to consider. Once again, please do not take this as a blanket endorsement of these guidelines by our department. However, there are some potentially helpful recommendations about which patients in the eyes of the Orthopedic team are appropriate for referral to Cast Clinic, and those who are unlikely to benefit (making it more likely that your referral will be declined).

Please also consider reviewing the excellent GEMS [Sports Medicine in the ED presentation](#) made by Ally, Chris, Meg and Miles with some alternative referral suggestions for non-surgical orthopedic injuries.

Bottom line: Our official department position remains that if you believe there is a clinical scenario that warrants either immediate telephone or in-person consultation, we support you in doing so regarding of time of day or reduced capacity status. However, please be polite and professional, especially if calling overnight. If you encounter frankly unprofessional or abusive behavior, please send me a message with the patient name, PHN, DOB, consultant name and a brief description of what happened at james.andruchow@ahs.ca.

Outpatient Cardiology Clinic Referral Delays

Recently, we've been made aware of significant delays experienced by some of the outpatient cardiology clinics we routinely refer to. While we as a department do not endorse any particular clinics for follow-up, we do want to make you aware that certain clinics currently have shorter waitlists than others. I called each of the following clinics below and got the following timelines for seeing patients referred from the ED:

- Total Cardiology – Routine referral 2-5 months, General 6-10 months
- C-ERA – 1-2 weeks
- Summit Cardiology – 2-3 months
- Symphony of Health – 5-days

Please also note that none of the clinics I contacted were aware of streamlined pathways for elective cardioversion for patients with unclear onset or delayed presentation of atrial fib/flutter who could not be cardioverted in the ED. If they have paroxysmal afib/flutter and have not returned to normal sinus rhythm after 3-weeks of anticoagulation, you are likely best off asking them to come back to the ED for cardioversion.

Esophageal balloons for Upper GI Bleeds

Please note that the Linton esophageal balloon which we have used in the Calgary Zone for many years has recently been discontinued by the manufacturer. The Blakemore tube has now been substituted. It's very similar to the Linton, but adds an esophageal balloon.

For more information, please see the following videos from EM:RAP:

- Comparison of Linton and Blakemore <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv4muh0hX7Y>
- Blakemore Tube Placement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHelCd5Jtp4>

Open Shifts

Last thing, please note that we still have a number of open shifts across the zone in June, including both FMC and PLC with two open shifts each on June 28. Please have a look and see if you can help out. Thanks for looking.

June, 2024							Today	Refresh	Show Trade Marketplace	Sync	Download	Ratings	Icon Legend
Mon, May 27	Tue, May 28	Wed, May 29	Thu, May 30	Fri, May 31	Sat, Jun 1	Sun, Jun 2							
				MT 17:00 - 24:00 → Open									
Mon, Jun 3	Tue, Jun 4	Wed, Jun 5	Thu, Jun 6	Fri, Jun 7	Sat, Jun 8	Sun, Jun 9							
17:00 - 23:59 → Open	Flex 16:00-22:00 Open MT 17:00 - 24:00 → Open EM = Clarke	MT 17:01 - 23:59 → Open				18:00 - 01:00 → Open							
Mon, Jun 10	Tue, Jun 11	Wed, Jun 12	Thu, Jun 13	Fri, Jun 14	Sat, Jun 15	Sun, Jun 16							
			MT 10:00 - 17:00 → Open										
Mon, Jun 17	Tue, Jun 18	Wed, Jun 19	Thu, Jun 20	Fri, Jun 21	Sat, Jun 22	Sun, Jun 23							
		20:00 - 03:00 → Open	16:00 - 23:00 Fast Track → Open 19:00 - 02:00 → Open										
Mon, Jun 24	Tue, Jun 25	Wed, Jun 26	Thu, Jun 27	Fri, Jun 28	Sat, Jun 29	Sun, Jun 30							
	23:00 - 06:00 → Open	16:00 - 23:00 Fast Track Open 23:00 - 06:00 → Open	17:00 - 23:59 → Open	14:00 - 21:00 Open 23:00 - 06:00 → Open 09:00 - 16:00 → Open 15:00 - 22:00 → Open	19:00 - 02:00 → Open	20:00 - 03:00 → Open							

ED Department Head Presentations

For your convenience, please click on the links below to watch the past presentations from the last few weeks.

[Dr. James Andruchow's Presentation](#) (presentation starts at 9:55)

[Dr. Catherine Patocka's Presentation](#) (presentation starts at 25:18)

[Dr. Michael Betzner's Presentation](#) (presentation starts at 4:15)

Connect Care Update

1) CPSA Physician Practice Improvement Projects (PPIP) and Connect Care

As many of you know, the CPSA mandates that we all participate in 3 PPIP activities over a 5-year period. 'Connect Quality' is an initiative developed by the Chief Medical Information Office (CMIO) of AHS to provide the resources, training, reporting tools, and documentation required for you to meet the CPSA's PPIP requirements. Check out the following link to find more details about how you can use Connect Quality to achieve your PPIP goals: <https://manual.connect-care.ca/Training/connect-quality>

2) IT Bed IFT Process

If anyone has had any recent experiences with the new IT bed IFT process, please let me know! The best way to improve the process will be to collate both positive and negative experiences and feed these back through the LTC working group, so don't feel shy about sending me any of your feedback at chris.hall@ahs.ca (don't worry, I can take it!)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Grand Rounds and Journal Club

*Grand Rounds Cancelled for June 6, 2024. Stay tuned for next week's details.

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

Emergency Medicine Journal Club Thursday June 13, 2024

You are invited to attend the Emergency Medicine Journal Club

Date: June 13, 2024

Time: 18:00 to 21:00

Topic: Effect of Noninvasive Airway Management of Comatose Patients With Acute Poisoning

Presenters: Drs. Christina Dennehy and Tyler Clarke

Preceptor: Dr. Chris Lipp

**Emergency
Medicine
Journal
Club**

Hosted by: Dr. Dave Mainprize

ARTICLE 1: Effect of Noninvasive Airway Management of Comatose Patients With Acute Poisoning

Please RSVP to Tris TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca by **June 9th, 2024** if attending.

Department News

Kudos Corner

Congratulations to Dr. Melanie Sohn as she accepts her new UME position as Director, Professional Role Course and continues her role as a member of the Emergency Department.

Kudos Corner - Patient Commendation

My husband experienced a Cardiac Arrest while at work. Though he ultimately didn't survive, it certainly wasn't due for lack of incredible skill and effort by all the AHS staff he & I encountered on this day.

Being an RN myself, I want to pass on my most sincerest thanks to: The EMS staff: Tim, Maria, Levi, David who responded to his workplace and took him to PLC, your job is so very difficult but you show up first and I know gave it all you had. The PLC ED staff & MD (Dr Greidanus?) who was absolutely everything I would want in the person responsible for the emergency care of my loved one (you were incredibly kind and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to come in and see him once he'd initially been resuscitated so I could speak to him for what would ultimately be the last time. Your gentleness, explanations, involving me, skill & professionalism are unmatched). I never doubted he was in the absolutely most capable hands. The PLC ED SW Derrick who was there at our most vulnerable and couldn't have been more any more caring and professional. The transfer crew(s) who took him to FMC (he arrested again on the way and you had to once again try your hardest), so thank you: Alyssa, Katrina, Scott, Anna. I know he was in the very best hands at all times.

The FMC ED staff specifically Katie and Shannon RN's who were amazingly kind and went above and beyond to explain, reassure and show us we mattered in what was the most difficult moment (hours) of my life. Dr Katie Lin who came to speak to us, to explain and had the incredibly difficult job of explaining how poor the outlook was but also involving us and allowing us to be present in the code if desired.

The Cath Lab & CCU staff – Dr Joshi & Sachedina and RN Taylor who, again, treated us with the utmost respect, compassion and professionalism and ultimately had to break the news that my husband had passed away despite every conceivable medical effort. I never had any doubts, through several hours, arrests, resuscitations, procedures, etc. that my husband had the most skilled staff who did everything humanly possible to try to save him. Please know that, despite it being a traumatic and horrible day due to the ultimate outcome, I didn't, nor will I ever have an inkling of "what if" something else had been done as I wouldn't have changed a thing. I only witnessed heroes on this day. You see people on their worst days but made mine as good as it could be under the circumstances.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please don't carry this loss around with you. Please pass on our gratitude to the following teams & Senior Leadership: EMS, PLC & FMC ED, Physicians, Cath Lab and CCU.

R5 Graduation Gifts

We are getting ready to celebrate the upcoming graduation of our R5's: Jason Elzinga, Cara McCulloch, Natasha Goumeniouk and Cody Dunne. To send them off in style, we would love to continue the tradition of graduation gifts. If they have ever brightened your day, kept you sharp on shift, lifted your overnight morale or stolen your procedures, please consider donating to their send-off.

We will collect the funds and purchase the gifts, to be distributed at the grad BBQ in June. As always your support is much appreciated. Please reach out with any questions.

E-transfers can be directed to: meaghan.mackenzie2@ucalgary.ca

Thank you, The R6's

CME Learning and Conferences

Alberta CAEP Presentations 2024

We are pleased to report another amazing turnout for Alberta based research and presentations at CAEP2024. If you plan on going please consider attending and supporting our trainees and your colleagues.

Dr. Anoop Manocha will be performing *Docs that Rock* on **Monday June 10 from 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM.**

<https://www.xcdsystem.com/caep/program/TJ55ti0/index.cfm>

Updated Newsletter Process

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

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

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

In Case You Missed Last Week

Department News

Group Emergency Medicine Sessions aka GEMS 2024/2025

The sign up is now open for the coming year for the Group Emergency Medicine Sessions (GEMS). These are small group, staff only sessions on a variety of topics relevant to our practice that occur throughout the year. Please sign up for a group on the google doc that works best for your schedule. You may move between sessions, as needed based on your schedule, throughout the year.

Note: These sessions are funded by the PSF. If you are not a contributing PSF member, you will be required to pay a fee to attend.

[GEMS sign up sheet](#)

Staff Recommendations for Financial Services

Graduating residents are going through what we went through when we first started – looking for recommendations for accountants, lawyers, etc. A simple Google Sheet has been created with open access for folks to share their recommendations openly, disclosing whatever you feel comfortable with, to share with our learners as well as each other. Please feel free to drop your recommendations into the Google Sheet. You can do so anonymously if you wish. You may also choose to disclose helpful information such as what it costs to do your taxes, annual PC return, etc. Thank you in advance.

[Staff Recommendations for Financial Services Google Doc](#)

Teaching Opportunities

Academic Day Preceptor Opportunities

We are now recruiting staff preceptors for the 2024-2025 Emergency Medicine academic teaching sessions.

All resident led sessions needing staff preceptors from **July 1st to Dec 31st** 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 Opportunities](#)

This list will be kept as up to date as possible. All sessions are remunerated at the standard PGME rate.

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

Staff Examiners Required

FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : 2024

Thursday's June 13th , 2024 – In Person

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

- **June 13th 2024 from 1030 – 1300**

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

Please check your availability and let Tris know if you can help on June 13, 2024 please send the responses to TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca

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

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.

Click here for the list of formally trained Peer Supporters.

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.