

# Department of Emergency Medicine

## Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

## Operations

### Notes from Catherine

#### RGH Site Lead

The DEM is thrilled to announce that Dr. Ayesha Khory will be the new **Site Chief for the Emergency Department at Rockyview General Hospital** as of April 1, 2025. Dr. Khory brings extensive leadership experience, having previously served as Assistant Site Chief, and has been instrumental in initiatives like the low back pain group, Virtual Hospital at Home, and improving mental health care access. Her commitment to patient care, system innovation, and collaboration makes her an excellent choice for this role. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Khory on this well-deserved appointment.

#### AI Scribe Update from AHS

I would encourage all department members to read the [letter from Dr. Peter Jamieson](#) the Chief Medical Officer regarding our request to obtain a PIA for the Heidi Health AI scribe. In short, they are unable to do so. They have also outlined the risks physicians are taking in using such a product at this time. My only current solution for physicians who want to use AI scribe technology in the ED would be to contact Dr. Mike Weldon to join the Jenkins trial. I understand the capacity to support this continues to expand and many physicians in the Calgary zone (including urgent care physicians) are using this product. Please reach out to Michael if interested: [Michael.weldon@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Michael.weldon@albertahealthservices.ca)

#### CCFP-EM Program Director Job Posting

Please see the job posting later on in the newsletter for this exciting opportunity! Also, please be aware that this position is being considered for the EM AMHSP so if you are interested and committed to residency education don't let the compensation listed necessarily dissuade you.

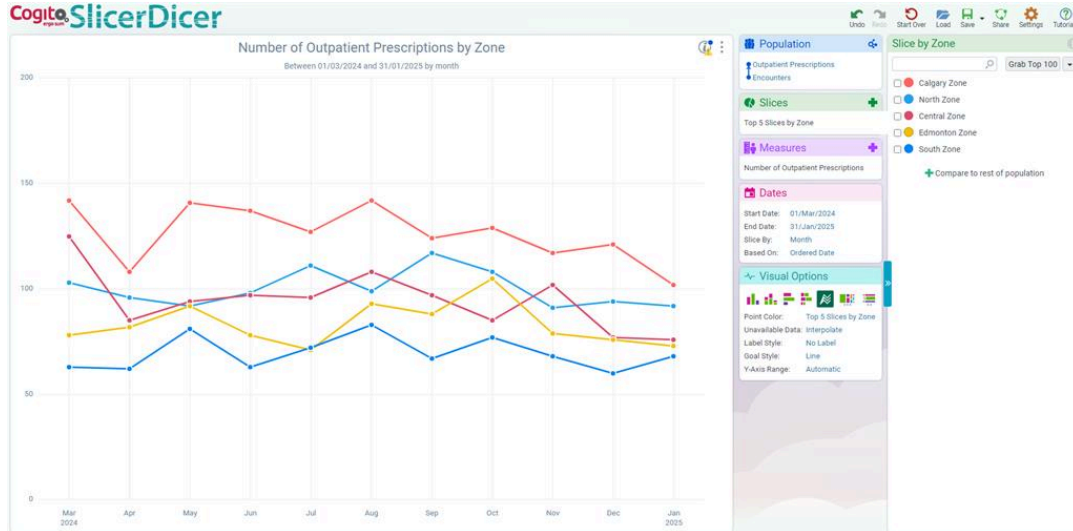
#### Tdap Orders

It appears that we continue to order the wrong tetanus vaccinations for patients. [As of 2024 we should be ordering Tdap](#) and **NOT** dTap. If you have been ordering the wrong one, it may continue to pop up because it is favourite in your browse list. The next time you need to order a tetanus booster you may want to navigate through any of the following order sets as the correct order has been updated in all of them.

- Animal bite ED/UCC Pediatric
- Cellulitis and Bites Adult ED/UCC
- Tetanus Prone Wounds/Animal Exposure Order Panel (aka tdap)

## ED Fluoroquinolone Outpatient Prescriptions

Keep up the good work! In the fall I reported that Calgary had the highest # of outpatient fluoroquinolone prescriptions, we are trending in the right direction (see attached screenshot from SlicerDicer) so keep considering alternate options when appropriate (sometimes they are not)



## Surgical Diversions

We are aware that these are starting to crop up again and we are also aware that there have been some recent issues with dissemination of the information to physicians who are working. James is working on the communication piece (exploring the use of a Connect Care banner). We have also recently received the summary of the Quality review that was done on the trauma diversion last summer and one of the recommendations is for an interdisciplinary group (including EM) to review and update the Diversion process. The Target date for completion of this is **March 31, 2025** so we are hopeful that this will lead to a policy where accountabilities are more balanced between the departments.

Catherine

## Notes from James

### New Push Dose Epi Protocol

Thanks to work led by our Clinical Nurse Specialist Heather Boucher, a standardized process for the delivery of push dose EPI/nephrine in Calgary Zone EDs has been developed and is now ready for implementation.

To briefly summarize the protocol:

- 1mg of EPI will be added to 100cc NS minibag to make a **10mcg/mL** concentration.
- This can be drawn up in a 5cc or 10cc syringe for administration (usually **5-20mcg/dose (0.5 to 2 mL) every 1-2 minutes**)

Please see the [backgrounder attached](#) for more information.

Let us know if you have any feedback on the new process as it gets rolled out.

James

# Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

## ACH Pediatric Trauma Rounds

Friday February 28, 2025 (0730—0830)

**Room:** Conference Room 3 at ACH (presenting in person) and ZOOM

**Zoom Link:** <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/64122308117?pwd=4bPBm1aXbengaDa7inHc0nXaajHNDw.1>

**Meeting ID:** 641 2230 8117

**Passcode:** 166722

**Speaker(s):** Dr. Thomas Cawthorn

**Title:** Pediatric Soft Tissue Trauma Reconstruction

**Post Meeting Survey:** [https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV\\_byGAELQHUIJrNrM](https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_byGAELQHUIJrNrM)

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

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## Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

Read about today's pearl of the week. Today's topic: [Medication-induced hairy tongue](#)

Mark

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## PADIS and Connect Care

The purpose of this note is to provide some background information on PADIS, the status of our access to Connect Care, and to explain our current process for entering notes into Connect Care for other health care providers to see.

### Background

- PADIS is the poison centre for all of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories. We receive about 46,000 calls per year from both the public and health care professionals, or about 126 calls a day

### Staff - CIRS

- PADIS is staffed by ~33 nurses and pharmacists who answer the initial call. All have received additional training in pharmacology and toxicology and are designated by AHS as Clinical Information Resource Specialists (CIRS)
- The electronic charting system we use is called ToxiCall. We have used this system since May 2016. This system is used by about 70% of the poison centres in the United States
- The CIRS have had view-only access to Connect Care since Launch 1 in November 2019 and there are no plans to change that. Their devices also log out after 15 minutes because they are in a public area
- All CIRS chart all telephone encounters into ToxiCall (initial calls, follow up calls, any electronic follow ups they do of labs or clinical status). Because of their view-only access, they do not have the ability to enter any notes in Connect Care. They do have

access to Connect Care Secure Chat and can communicate with the bedside team members that way

- While they may initially manage some hospital cases on their own, the PADIS MD will eventually hear about them as we do virtual daily rounds every day around 100pm

### Staff - toxicologists

- PADIS has a roster of eight physician medical toxicology attendings (MTs) and two resident physicians who are in our two year Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology fellowship training program
- All physicians have full access to Connect Care, including the ability to enter notes

### Notes in Connect Care

Entering notes on every patient the PADIS MT hears about from the CIRS (recognizing that we cover AB, SK, and the NWT) would be time consuming and not sustainable

MTs don't routinely enter notes if the call is answered by our CIRS and the MT hears about the case later in the day or the next day during rounds, particularly if it is a stable patient

Currently, MTs and CPT fellows will enter a note in Connect Care in any of the following circumstances:

- after all bedside consultations performed by one of our physicians or any resident rotating at PADIS
- when there are multiple calls from the bedside to PADIS asking for clarification on advice given over the phone, as a note can help clarify the advice provided
- a complex/unwell/unstable patient where a note can be beneficial in clarifying advice, especially if the advice is complex with a high potential for error
- upon request by an MD who speaks to one of the PADIS toxicologists for advice

Mark Yarema

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## Department News

### Kudos – Patient Commendation

Congrats to **SV Dr. Jonathan Michael Lubin Team at RGH** on their patient commendation:

Sarah visited the emergency room on Christmas Day for a persistent cough and high fever, where she received exceptional care from nurses Mathew and Morgan and Dr. J. Lubin, who conducted a thorough examination, diagnosed her with influenza, and provided compassionate service despite working late into the night, leaving her grateful for Calgary's healthcare system.

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### Patient Safety Concerns with Pregnancy Episodes in Connect Care

#### FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION:

In order to make care safer for patients in your area, we ask your help in completing the following:

- Please cascade the attached Safer Practice Notice (SPN) through your internal distribution channels to ensure that all appropriate/impacted areas receive this information.
- Please ask them to share and post this Safer Practice Notice as soon as possible.

For your convenience the [SPN is included as an attachment](#).

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## Teaching Opportunities

### Staff Examiners Required FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : Thursday's March 13th, 2025 – Virtual Exam

The CCFP-EM Residency Program is in need of 1 more staff examiners for the oral exams for

- **March 13th 2025 from 1030 – 1300**

These exams for March are virtual sessions by Zoom.

Please check your availability and let me know if you can help on **March 13, 2025 and June 12, 2025** please send the responses to [TriSurendra.Malasani@ahs.ca](mailto:TriSurendra.Malasani@ahs.ca)

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

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## Job Postings

### Family Medicine Enhanced Skills Residency Program

#### Program Director – Role Description

<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/128/2025-02-13%20ES-EM%20Program%20Director.pdf>

#### Overview

The Program Director, Enhanced Skills (ES) Emergency Medicine (“the program”) of the Department of Family Medicine of the University of Calgary is responsible for the oversight of the functioning of the ES Emergency Medicine program.

The responsibilities include planning, organization, recruitment, coordination of learner placement, promotion, administration, continuous quality improvement, and professional development. The Program Director will be accountable to the Head of the Department of Family Medicine, University of Calgary, through the Central Enhanced Skills Program Director and the Postgraduate Family Medicine Program Director. The Program Director also reports to the Department Head of Emergency Medicine.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Provide academic support, guidance, and oversight for the academic functioning of the ES Emergency Medicine program.
2. Provide advice and counsel to the Central Enhanced Skills Program Director and Postgraduate Family Medicine Program Director on key issues affecting the training of ES Emergency Medicine residents.
3. Communicate regularly with the Education Manager on logistical and operational needs of the program.

4. Promote collaboration among the academic faculty of the Departments of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine preceptors, as well as the wider Cumming School of Medicine faculty who act as preceptors to Enhanced Skills residents.
5. Communicate regularly with the Program Director of the Royal College Emergency Medicine Residency Program and Department Head of the Emergency Medicine program at the University of Calgary to ensure academic content, clinical opportunities, and institutional capacity for resident learning is supported across both programs.
6. Chair the ES Emergency Medicine Residency Program Committee (RPC) on a quarterly basis.
7. Attend quarterly meetings of the Central ES RPC chaired by the Central ES Program Director.
8. Liaise with other ES Emergency Medicine Program Directors at national meetings of the ES Emergency Medicine Program Directors' Group.
9. Provide support for strategic planning, administrative issues, and recruitment of new preceptors.
10. Facilitate and conduct continuous quality improvement initiatives such as, but not limited to, accreditation preparation and reviews, site visits, outcomes measures, faculty evaluation, resident feedback surveys, and resident exit interviews. This includes providing constructive feedback to preceptors and rotations of the program.
11. Regularly review and revise academic content, goals and objectives of, and evaluation tools used in the program.
12. Support interventions required for learners in difficulty.
13. Lead the selection of candidates for the program.
14. Participate in meetings of the Department related to the function of the program and the Residency Program.
15. Fulfill other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

[Please see attached Appendix: CCFP ES EM Program Director Duties for additional details](#)

#### **Requirements:**

In accordance with Postgraduate Medical Education Residency Director qualifications:

- Member of the University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine with certification or fellowship in the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).
- Graduate of a CFPC ES Emergency Medicine program and holder of a Certificate of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine (CAC-EM).
- The candidate will need to have an academic appointment in the University of Calgary Department of Emergency Medicine and a clinical appointment in the AHS Calgary Zone Emergency Department.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to collaborate with stakeholders across both Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine Departments to manage program resources and operations.
- Leadership ability.
- Resident advocacy skills and interests.
- Working knowledge of the principles of adult learning and postgraduate medical education.

Clinical expertise in Emergency Medicine and experience in medical education and administration is a definite asset.

[See attached Appendix with tasks description](#)

#### **TO APPLY:**

We are currently recruiting an Enhanced Skills Emergency Medicine Program Director for Calgary. Compensation is commensurate with the number of residents in the program. With the current number of residents in the program (8) this is \$36,496 per annum; please note this role is salaried from the University of Calgary with corresponding required CRA deductions.

Please submit your CV to Dr. Martina Barton, Postgraduate Director for Family Medicine at [mbarton@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mbarton@ucalgary.ca) no later than 5pm on Friday, March 7. Interviews will be held in March. Planned start date is April 1, 2025.

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# Research

## Kudos Corner – Publications

Congratulations to Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky on her latest publication: [Opening the black box: challenges and opportunities regarding interpretability of artificial intelligence in emergency medicine](#)

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# Conferences, Workshops and Courses

## Friesen Prize Lecture with Dr. Gordon Guyatt

Join Dr. Gordon Guyatt for his lecture: The Past, Present and Future of Evidence Based Medicine.

Dr. Guyatt, MSc, MD, FRCP(C), OC, distinguished university professor at McMaster University's Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact is the recipient of the 2024 Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research.

The annual Friesen Prize Institutional Visit supports the Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research.

- Date: Wednesday March 12, 2025
- Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. followed by a reception in Hippocrates mall
- Location: Clara Christie, Health Science Centre, Foothills Campus

Further information on these conferences and courses can be found on [this registration link](#).

### Other conferences and courses to check out

Conferences: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/emergency-medicine/faculty-staff/professional-development/conferences-interest>

Courses: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/emergency-medicine/faculty-staff/professional-development/workshop-and-courses>

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# Updated Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: [natalie.sun@ahs.ca](mailto:natalie.sun@ahs.ca) and CC [Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca](mailto: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.

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# In Case You Missed Last Week

## 2025 ED Staff Simulation Sign Up (Jan-June):

There are still more staff SIM spots available!

Additionally, we will have a session on March 11th at 8:30AM at the PLC to review and practice using the Blakemore Tube on our SIM mannequin in the trauma bay.

Check out the SignUp Genius below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AAAD22A5F8C25-52416005-2025#/>

Meg [meaghan.mackenzie2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:meaghan.mackenzie2@ucalgary.ca)

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## ED Gala Tickets Now On Sale

The 2025 ED Gala has been confirmed for May 8th and tickets are now on sale!

A change in timing from the fall to spring, the 2024/25 ED Gala will also change venues with this year's event booked at the Calgary Zoo.

As always, this evening of celebration is for all of the emergency MD's across the city from all sites along with their significant others. The main theme will be around socializing and taking some time to relax, to have some fun, and to take the time to toast and pay tribute to all of the continued hard work and contributions made these past few years.

Lets lose the scrubs and lab coats and pull out those fine gala dresses and suits, to wine, dine, and dance the night away!

- Tickets: \$170 per person \*\*\*\*\***Etransfer (preferred)** or Cheques accepted
- Etransfer to [bakerla@shaw.ca](mailto:bakerla@shaw.ca) and please **include your name in the message**.
- Cheques can be made out to "Awards Group - Dept of EM"
- **Space is very limited** and we are expecting a sell out crowd again this year so don't delay!

We sure hope to see most of you out!! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Further emails regarding award nominations will be coming shortly.

**Sincerely, Your ED Gala Planning Committee:**

Laurie-Ann Baker, Chris Bond, Jen Puddy, Jen D'Mello, Ayesha Khory, Nancy Zuzic, Haley Cochrane, Naminder Sandhu, Marcie Leitch, Rachel Taylor, Catherine Patocka

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