

# Department of Emergency Medicine

## Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

## Operations

### Notes from Catherine

#### More information about volumes over the holidays

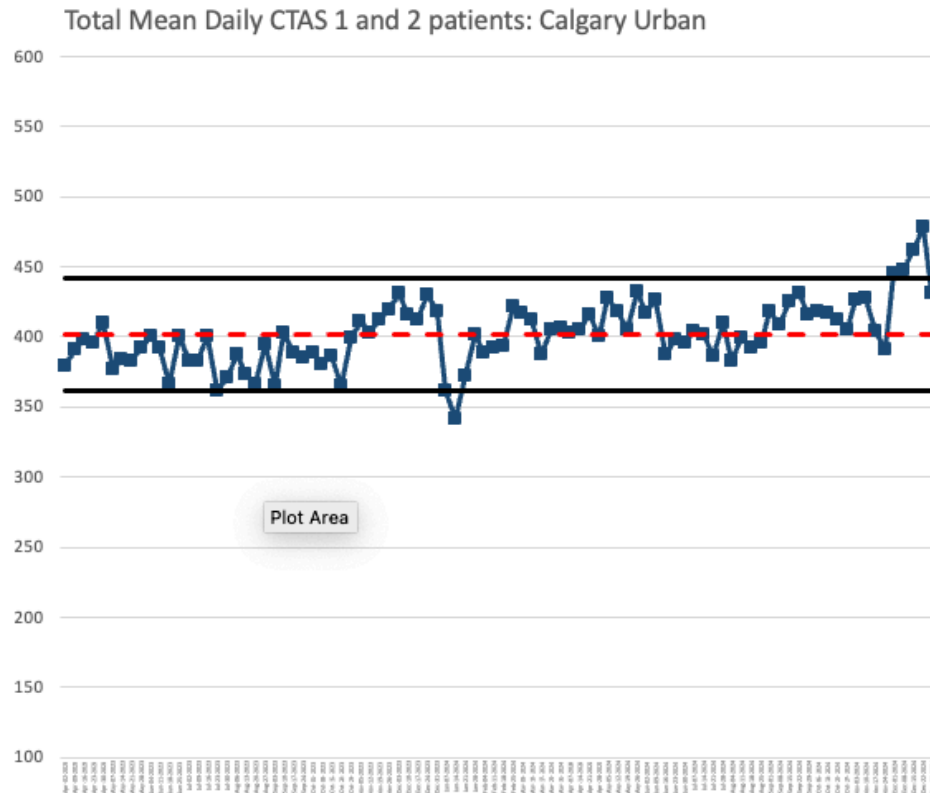
There were a lot of exasperated messages over the holidays highlighting some very long wait times and WTBS patients. I just wanted to provide some data to outline that our volumes were significantly higher. I've included 2 graphs that go from April 2023-Dec 2024 demonstrating

1) A visually significant increase in the Total Mean Daily Visits to Calgary Urban ED over the holiday season (also note this sort of spike was **not** seen in Dec 2023) and

Total Mean Daily Visits: Calgary Urban



2) A spike in the proportion of CTAS 1 and CTAS 2 patients. Just reiterating that our teams worked exceedingly hard over the holidays. I don't know what was driving this increase (? RSV) but we'll continue to have discussions about it at the physicians executive and AHS leadership tables.



### Provincial education medical affairs emails

You all likely received emails to your AHS email from ProvMAEducation about BLS and Blood Transfusion training – I am in the process of following up to understand where these come from. As far as I know, our department was not consulted on these initiatives and on first glance they seem quite inappropriate for emergency physicians. I will provide an update once I figure out who ProvMAEducation is.

### AI scribe survey

Thanks to those who have responded to the AI scribe survey – we've received 28 responses. I have a meeting with AHS next week. Please consider weighing in, it should not take more than 2-3 minutes. Also, if anyone is aware of other providers in the hospital using AI scribes (I've discovered a few) please let me know. <https://forms.gle/AVeSpNmA2m5h6op6>

### Faculty Feedback - one45

With the move to a PGME faculty feedback form and the disorder of the COVID-19 pandemic, we realized that our faculty have not received feedback on their bedside teaching for several years. In an effort to course correct you will have recently received an email directing you to one45 to review your Faculty feedback. In order to receive feedback you need to have had three forms filled out, so if you didn't receive it, it's likely because three forms were not filled out. We will continue to encourage learners to provide feedback and hope to get back to the situation where you are receiving this feedback approximately every six months. Thanks for your patience with this.

### Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Advocacy (EDIA)

The Departmental leadership remains committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and advocacy. Recognizing that new leadership can't address everything at once, I have tentatively planned an EDIA workout session to brainstorm and determine strategic direction for this area in the Fall of 2025. In the lead up to that work, I will be including some EDIA topic summaries/helpful information in the newsletter on a monthly basis from Jan-June 2025. My hope is to provide people with some resources to develop some language and understanding of EDIA concepts in the lead up to the session (the date of which will ideally be announced prior to the Fall 2025).

schedule coming out). Please see this week's DEI corner to find the link on the UCalgary website outlining and explaining various Microaggressions. It's a pretty cool site please check it out <https://www.themicropedia.org/#/entry/e89b45a3-bc84-49b4-ae1f-5dc2349e170b>

### Apology from Hematology (specific to FMC)

With the launch of the Arthur Child Cancer Center the hematology service moved their beds and circulated guidelines about what is and is not appropriate for admission to the hematology service. Emergency Department leadership intentionally did not circulate these guidelines as we could not establish that they were agreed upon by the more generalist (MTU/hospitalist services who would in theory be taking on a heavier load of patients – for instance those with sickle cell pain crisis). We realize there were more than a few unpleasant interactions where Emergency physicians were caught in very uncomfortable disposition disputes between several services. We recently met with hospital/departmental/physician leadership to discuss and after outlining the poor communication about these guidelines the ED received an **apology** from the hematology service. As of Jan 14, hematology has agreed to continue to, in general, be the admitting service for patients at the FMC with complications related to their sickle cell disease (as long as they have capacity). Patients with sickle cell disease requiring admission at other sites (PLC/SHC and RGH) are generally admitted to the Medical service at those sites. There is a disposition decisions working group (James Andruchow represents us at that table) whose work will hopefully help alleviate some of the many ongoing disposition disputes we encounter moving forward. That work is ongoing but slow, we will keep you updated.

### RAAPID calls to stroke

The stroke service has noted an increase in calls to the FMC Stroke service prior to advanced (CTA) imaging in cases where there is concern for stroke. They encourage emergency physicians to feel comfortable ordering advanced imaging in cases where there are focal signs or a convincing history of focal signs. Please let me know if you are having trouble obtaining this imaging in the absence of communication with stroke as that should generally not be happening.

### Changes to AHS CEO

Many of you will have noted the change in the upper echelons of the AHS leadership structure. I am as confused by all of this as you and have nothing further to add, other than that the leaders I report to day-to-day have not changed.

Catherine

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## Notes from James

### \*EQUIPMENT CHANGE: NEW Esophageal balloons for Upper GI Bleeds

Just a reminder 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 (which you don't necessarily have to use).

For more information on how to place them, 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=NHeICd5Jtp4>

There will also be an upcoming sim session to gain some hands on experience – be on the lookout for an a signup.

James

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## Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

## Grand Rounds Thursday January 16, 2025 (0900—1000) (1.0 Education Credits)

**Room:** Theatre 4 – HSC

**Zoom Link:** <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/61834756597?pwd=SkG1ZmdXOGdRWmgxMUc0U3INMjR5Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 618 3475 6597    **Passcode:** 407952

**Session #1 0900 – 1000**

**Speaker:** Dr. Joe Vipond

**Bio:** Dr Joe Vipond has worked as an emergency physician for over twenty years, currently at the Rockyview General Hospital. Outside of clinical work, he has focused his efforts on advocacy, both on climate and COVID policy. He is Past-President of the national charity Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. He is also the co-founder and board member of the local charity the Calgary Climate Hub, and over the last four years, the co-founder of #masks4Canada, the Canadian Covid Society, and ProtectOurProvinceAB. Joe grew up in Calgary and continues to live there with his wife and two daughters.



**Title:** You Do You? Or Patient and occupational safety? A choice for our leaders

**Description:** COVID continues to sicken patients and HCWs in our Emergency Rooms, hospitals, and long-term care facilities, and is undoubtedly the #1 Hospital-Acquired Infection cause of mortality. Do our health care leaders have a responsibility to ensure patient and

HCW safety, like in other industries, or does individual autonomy require a relaxed approach? Hoping for a lively discussion on the bioethics of today's health care system.

## Session #2 1000 – 1015

Research Update by Dr. Andrew McRae

[DEM Academic Grand Rounds Evaluation](#)

[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: [Renal Drug Dosing – Part 1](#)

Mark Yarema

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## Teaching Opportunities Academic Day Preceptor Opportunities

Now that the dust is settling on the Spring schedule please consider signing up to preceptor one of the few remaining academic sessions this year!

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](mailto:kelsey.ragan@ucalgary.ca)).

[Academic Day Preceptor Google Sheet](#)

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

Kelsey

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

Given the switch to Blakemore tubes for UGIBs (from the Linton) we will facilitate practice using the Blakemore tube in SIM over the coming months, for any interested participants. Email me two weeks before your SIM session if you want to have hands on practice with the Blakemore, and we will incorporate it into your session.

Additionally, if you are unable to participate in a SIM session but would like hands on practice with the Blakemore tube, please email me. If there is enough interest, I will set up a separate session to accommodate more hands-on practice.

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

Meg

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

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## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Corner EDI Learning Opportunity

All staff and learners are welcome and encouraged to join the EM resident group for the upcoming Equity, Diversity, Advocacy and Cultural Safety (EDACS) lecture.

Our guest speaker this month will be **Dr. Caley Shukalek** (you can read more about [Dr. Shukalek here](#)) and he will be presenting on some key considerations when caring for LGBTQ2IA+ patients in the ED. The session will be held **Thursday, January 23rd from 1600-1700 in Rm G500 in the Health Science Centre.**

We hope to see you there!

Claire Acton & Kelsey Ragan

(EDACS Co-directors)

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## Micropedia

This month we are highlighting micropedia: a site dedicated to helping people learn about microaggressions without fear of judgement. The Micropedia aims to collect everyday microaggressions and highlight their harmful impact through source-based definition and real-world examples.

Link: <https://www.themicropedia.org/#/entry/e89b45a3-bc84-49b4-ae1f-5dc2349e170b>

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## Conferences, Workshops and Courses

Further information on these conferences and courses can be found on the web pages below.

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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## Canadian Association of Wilderness Medicine

The Canadian Association of Wilderness Medicine (CAWM) is seeking applications for speakers and workshop leaders for our 2025 conference, scheduled to take place October 3-5, 2025 in Canmore, Alberta with pre-conference activities scheduled for October 1-2. Applications are open to both students/residents and faculty. Any/all wilderness medicine topics are encouraged, please be creative! Applications close March 6, 2025 at 11:59pm MT.

We see great value in multidisciplinary presentations and we encourage applicants from a variety of disciplines and professional backgrounds to apply. Speaker mentorship is also available for anyone interested. Please visit our website <https://cawm.ca/> or contact [programdirector@cawm.ca](mailto:programdirector@cawm.ca) to learn more.



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WILDERNESS MEDICINE

# SUBMIT YOUR CAWM2025 SPEAKER APPLICATION

APPLY NOW TO BE A:  
**CONFERENCE SPEAKER**  
**WORKSHOP PRESENTER**  
**PRE-CONFERENCE PRESENTER**

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CAWM2025 will take place October 3-5, 2025 in picturesque Canmore, Alberta at the COAST Canmore Hotel and Conference Centre.

Pre-conference activities take place October 1-2.

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 6, 2025 at 11:59pm MT**



FOR MORE INFO: [PROGRAMDIRECTOR@CAWM.CA](mailto:PROGRAMDIRECTOR@CAWM.CA)

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Other Opportunities

# Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss Study

Please help us appraise a clinical care pathway for sudden sensorineural hearing loss. This pathway has been developed existing literature and local expert feedback from audiologists, family physicians, emergency physicians, and otolaryngologists.

This study has been approved by the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB23-15588).

If you are interested in participating, please access the survey here or scan the QR code below: [https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV\\_eR4rcrcGbxG3Tq6](https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_eR4rcrcGbxG3Tq6)

If you have any further questions, please reach out to William Kim at [william.kim@ucalgary.ca](mailto:william.kim@ucalgary.ca).



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## Research

### Call for Abstracts - NEW DEADLINE

It's time to showcase your scholarly activity!

Department of Emergency Medicine Research Day abstract submission is now open!

Research Day is coming up May 8, 2025 from 0800-1600. We are excited to partner with Pediatric Emergency Medicine to deliver a high-impact, high-quality, clinically relevant and engaging research day, with both adult and pediatric EM topics!

Please save the date and consider submitting your work! New this year, learners can receive feedback on their abstracts from abstract reviewers. Please use the attached form for submission to [christina.cherian@ahs.ca](mailto:christina.cherian@ahs.ca)

NEW DEADLINE: January 27, 2025 at 1600h.

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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.

# In Case You Missed Last Week

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

## GRAND ROUNDS 2025/2026

In an effort to support our colleagues and residents and to continue to improve the quality of our grand rounds, please consider contributing to the [GRAND ROUNDS DOCUMENT](#)

In this document, you may share any suggested topics or guest speakers you would like to see included in the upcoming year. Furthermore, if you have something you would like to present to our group, there is also a place to add your name, topic (if already known) and preferred month and/or dates so I can preferentially schedule you. Thank you, as always and feel free to reach out with any other suggestions.

Brit Sunderani

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Department News

## GEMS Feedback

For anyone currently involved in GEMS or who would like to be involved in GEMS in the coming year, please see brief attached survey (<5 minutes) for requests for topics in the upcoming year and any feedback re: session format, timing, etc. This feedback is anonymous and greatly appreciated to improve future sessions. As a reminder, the remaining sessions this cycle include Connect Care Optimization, Critical Care, Toxicology, Psych in the ED (with PES) and Wellness. Thank you!

[Group Emergency Medicine Sessions \(GEMS\)](#)

Brit Sunderani

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Teaching Opportunities

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

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

- **March 13th 2025 from 1030 – 1300**
- **June 12th 2025 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 **March 13, 2025** and **June 12, 2025** please send the responses to [TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca](mailto:TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca).

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

Tris

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## Recruiting Facilitators for 2025 Emerg UME SIM

Medical students (elective and mandatory clerks) rotating through emergency will have a simulation during their 2-week block. This is generally on Thursdays from 09:00-11:00 in the Health Science's ATSSL (G820).

The group ranges between 6-14 learners and will typically require two facilitators per session. Your role will be to pre-brief, manage the scenario, and facilitate debriefing. I will send you the case including a review of discussion topics so it is low preparation.

Renumeration is at the UME teaching rate \$125/hr.

Sign up included below:

[Google Docs Sim Signup Sheet](#)

Thank you for considering! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ryan Wilkie - [rdwilkie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rdwilkie@ucalgary.ca)

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