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**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

July 2, 2025

# Department of Emergency Medicine

## Calgary Zone

**weekly email updates for ED Physicians**

DEM News Subscriber,

## Operations

### Notes from Catherine

#### **Disposition escalation process over Stampede**

We are planning to trial a **4-hour disposition escalation process** during Stampede. When our departments are in EMS emergent offload, we will be asking consultants to provide disposition decisions within four hours of consultation. This will include staff-to-staff discussions at the 4 hour mark.

The exact process and details will be shared with ED physicians and other Department Heads/Operations people (likely tomorrow) as we finalize the last pieces. We recognize that this is new and may catch some consultants off guard. Our goals at this stage are twofold:

1. To pilot the process and see how it works in practice.
2. To raise awareness among consulting services about the pressures the ED is facing during EMS emergent offload situations.

As with any new process, we expect there may be challenges or unforeseen issues, and we know there will be opportunities for improvement. Your site leads asked us to do this two weeks ago and

and/or your site leads.

Thank you for your patience and collaboration as we work together to improve flow and care for our ED patients.

Also, thanks to Mike Szava-Kovats who has offered to do a small evaluation of the pilot.

### Welcome and congratulations

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the end of year BBQ and award winners (see list later in the newsletter) - it was a great event put on by the residency programs thank you! Welcome to all the new and returning residents and of course, to the new locums/associate physicians!

### ED Frequent Visitors Program

Members may have heard rumors of a recent threat to the ED frequent visitors program headed up by Dr Christine East and Ken Mont. We have had a really difficult time finding the appropriate amount of leadership funding to support this very important work. I am thrilled to announce that through the collaboration of Dr Mark Anselmo (ZMD) and Dr Richard Leigh (Senior Associate Dean Faculty Affairs) we were able to temporarily borrow an AMHSP as of July 1, 2025. This gives us the interim solution we need until our EM AMHSPs come on board. On that same note, Alberta Health confirmed the budget for the 6 AMHSPs that I previously mentioned were on hold and I am hopeful that things will move forward on those positions as soon as possible.

### PA clerkship coordinator

I'm pleased to introduce Dr. Alex Dong as our new Physician Assistant (PA) Clerkship Coordinator for the Calgary Zone emergency departments. Dr. Dong brings extensive experience as an educator and leader, with a strong track record in supporting learners across multiple levels of training. He has worked closely with PAs in various clinical settings and is deeply committed to fostering high-quality, supportive training environments. You will start to see some messaging from him as we prepare for the first PA clerks to arrive in our EDs on September 2.

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## Notes from James

Hi Folks,

Just wanted to share a couple of **ConnectCare Updates** we just received today. Let me know if you have any questions or issues.

James

### MHA eForms Updates

- Go-live June 17

- For Form 1 and Form 2, the Add Signer Name field will replace the Provider name field in the left panel.

- Less relevant to ED:
  - Two new MHA forms: Mental Health Patient Advocate Request Form, Competency at time of Admission/Renewal Form
  - Two new workflows: Release of Information Workflow, Corrections, Amendments and Addendums
- Blog post: [insite.albertahealthservices.ca/Main/assets/cis/tms-cis-mental-health-act-improvements.pdf](https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/Main/assets/cis/tms-cis-mental-health-act-improvements.pdf)
- Tips/resources: <http://support.connect-care.ca/2025/06/13.html>.

### Anonymous Patient Workflow Pilot

- Go-live June 23, **FMC only**
- A new workflow implemented by HIM to update the identity of unidentified patients during the admission rather than after discharge
- Updates will be coordinated by HIM during business hours (M-F, 09:00-15:30), during a time when the patient doesn't have planned medications/procedures, etc.
- HIM is unable to merge the records when another user is in the chart. HIM can trigger a Close Chart Request message to users that are actively working in the chart, so they can continue with the merge:

- It will take between 2-10 minutes to complete the merge.
- Upon Merge and Demographic update, MRP (current Attending Provider) tasked to review chart for clinically significant impacts including Admission medication reconciliation, Allergy history, Warnings, and other clinically significant changes. This will be sent to their In Basket.
- Task is rescinded if patient is discharged.

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- Current workflow: <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/Main/assets/cistr/tms-cis-ed-registrar-anonymous-patients.pdf>
- Pilot plan: [Anonymous Patient Identification Pilot Plan.pdf](#)
- FMC pilot presentation: [FMC Pilot - Updated Anonymous Patient Workflow.pdf](#)

### Discharge/IFT Gateway

- Go-live June 26
- Complete redesign and optimization of the interfacility/discharge navigators
- Tip sheet and update to PLY pending (I will send when available)

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## Grand Rounds, Journal Club, and Clinical Pearls

### Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

This week's Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology pearl is on drug-induced elevations in lactate. [CPT pearl drug-induced hyperlactatemia.pdf](#)

Drug-induced elevations in lactate are typically a type-B hyperlactatemia, resulting in tissue hypoxia that is independent of tissue oxygen availability.

The Clinical Pharmacology (CP) physician consultation service is available Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm, excluding stat holidays. The on-call physician is listed in ROCA on the AHS Insite page. CP consultations are also available through Netcare e-referral, Specialist Link, and RAAPID. You can also find us in the [Alberta ReferralDirectory](#) (ARD) by searching "Pharmacology" from the ARD home page Click [HERE](#) for more details about the service.

The Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) is available 24/7 for questions related to poisonings. Please call 1-800-332-1414(AB and NWT) or 1-866-454-1212 (SK). Information about our outpatient Medical Toxicology Clinic can be found in [Alberta ReferralDirectory](#) (ARD) by searching "Toxicology" from the ARD home page.

More CPT Pearls of the Week can be found [HERE](#).

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## Department News

### Kudos Corner – Patient Commendation

#### Physician and staff - Emergency Department (SHC)

We had a wonderful experience in the emergency department today—triage nurse **Donna**, along with **Dr. Rebus**, **Miranda RN**, and **Ashley RN**, provided exceptionally kind, calm, and compassionate care. The team's thoughtful approach, especially with my daughter's anxiety, and their seamless coordination, made us feel safe and well-supported throughout our visit.

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### Kudos Corner – Award

#### Dr. Fareen Zaver

Congratulations to **Dr. Fareen Zaver** on being awarded the Transforming Reconciliation and Academic Inclusivity through Leadership (TRAIL) Indigenous Curriculum Grant through the Cumming School of Medicine.

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### Resident BBQ – Award Winners 2025

#### FR Coffee Award

An attending that goes above and beyond "buying a coffee" for resident at work. Someone who checks in before and after shifts, asks how you are doing and truly cares about resident well-being.

#### Winner: Sean Crooks

#### EM Coffee Award

An attending that goes above and beyond "buying a coffee" for resident at work. Someone who checks in before and after shifts, asks how you are doing and truly cares about resident well-being.

**Off service preceptor of the year:**

An award to recognize an off-service faculty who has gone above and beyond to contribute to rotating resident education on an off-service rotation.

**Winner: Dorothy Igras-Kulach (Ob-Gyn)**

**PEM Preceptor Award:**

PEM preceptor that excels in resident teaching, mentorship, and clinical education.

**Winner: Cory Meeuwisse**

**FR Best Emerg Junior Preceptor Award**

Preceptor in their first two years of practice that excels in resident teaching, mentorship and clinical education.

**Winner: Emma Meeuwisse**

**EM Emerg Preceptor of the year Award**

A staff who excels at clinical teaching, but who has also demonstrated outstanding contributions to the CCFP-EM Enhanced Skills Residency Program.

**Winner: Margriet Greidanus**

**FR Preceptor of the year Award:**

A staff who excels at clinical teaching, but who has also demonstrated outstanding contributions to the FRCPC-EM Residency Program.

**Winner: Katie Lin**

**Bryan Young Award:**

An award that recognizes a senior staff member who has made numerous and lasting contributions to residency education in EM over their career.

**Winner: Gord McNeil**

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## Meet the New Residents 2025-2026

Please give our new residents a very warm welcome. Encourage and support them as they grow with our team. Their bios and photos can be viewed below:

- [2025-2026 Resident Bio's CCFP-EM](#)
- [FRCPC – Bios of residents](#)

We are thrilled to have our new residents join us and look forward to their unique perspective on the challenges ahead!

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## Research

**Beginning July 3**, we will be starting **data collection for a national, multicenter observational study** (led out of Calgary!) to develop a new risk prediction tool for low-risk chest pain patients that performs better than existing tools like **HEART, EDACS and others**.

In patients with very low troponin concentrations, the risk of short-term adverse cardiac events is **0.5-1%**. But nationwide we refer about **1/4-1/3** of low-risk chest pain patients for outpatient consults/further testing. This leads to long wait times for patients who might actually benefit, and close to **\$200 Million** in unnecessary healthcare expenditures. Please help us develop better-performing tools to accurately identify which patients might benefit from downstream testing, and which ones do not need further testing.

**Starting on July 3, at RGH, FMC and SHC**, you will see a Best Practice Alert in the Dispo tab for patients with chest pain whose Troponin concentration is **<115ng/L** (we're trying to capture both low risk patients as well as those who may have nondiagnostic troponin concentrations/Unstable angina-type patients). The BPA will have a hyperlink to a data collection portal that will quickly take you through inclusion/exclusion criteria then, if the patient is eligible, you will be asked to complete an electronic data collection form that typically takes **60-90** seconds.

We will be starting to do monthly gift card draws for MDs who complete the data collection forms for this study as well as the syncope study. The more forms completed, the better your chance of winning!

Thanks for your help with this project that will lead to substantial improvements in the quality of care we provide to patients with suspected coronary disease.

Andrew

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## In Case You Missed Last Week

**PACS Changing - TRAINING REQUIRED**

implementation in the Calgary Zone in **September 2025**.

With the province-wide rollout of Connect Care and the availability of diagnostic images through XERO, broad access to PACS is no longer necessary. Access to PEI is now restricted to specific user groups, including **emergency providers**.

To gain access to PEI, all users must complete a **1-hour eLearning module** available on **My Learning Link**. Please note that this module will not be accessible to Calgary Zone learners until **June 30th, 2025**.

You should have received an email to your ahs email with details about this from

[Identity.Management@AlbertaHealthServices.ca](mailto:Identity.Management@AlbertaHealthServices.ca)

(Mine was received in Jan 2025 so you may have to search back)

If you did not, please reach out to [ProvincialEnterpriseImaging@ahs.ca](mailto:ProvincialEnterpriseImaging@ahs.ca)

Catherine

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## Opportunity: Hodsman Committee Co-chairs and New Committee Members

The Hodsman Legacy Lecture Committee is looking for two new Co-Chairs starting Sept 2026. Commitment for both chairs is 8-10 1Hr meetings over the year, approx. 24 hours total for the year in logistics, funding, coordination of meetings, speakers and bookings, grant applications and advertisement for the lecture. This is a great opportunity to fulfill your 24 hours of service per year. Jobs can be divided based on co-chair strengths, interests and time.

You **do not** need to be a current committee member to be a co-chair, and you will be supported this year by outgoing co-chairs Haley and Bretton.

If you are interested in being part of the Hodsman committee we are looking for two extra members at large and a resident member.

Please email Haley Cochrane ([haley.cochrane@gmail.com](mailto:haley.cochrane@gmail.com)) with a letter of interest for the co-chair or member at large position or with any specific questions.

Haley and Bretton

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## Updated Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: [natalie.sun@ahs.ca](mailto:natalie.sun@ahs.ca) and CC Ruchi Sharma ([ruchi.sharma@ahs.ca](mailto:ruchi.sharma@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

- Deadline is **Tuesday at noon**
- **Late** submissions will run in the next edition

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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