



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

July 08, 2025

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

ED Disposition Escalation Process

Thanks to those that have been part of the initial activations of the disposition escalation process. It was activated last Friday afternoon, and I didn't hear any major complaints. We will continue to work with operations to refine the process (we will likely shorten the message on the banner and make sure that it stays up 4 hours after offload). We will continue to push for an automated way to notify physicians when we are at the 4-hour mark. Again, please email me or James with any feedback good or bad.

Surgical Direct Admit/RAAPID work

Please join me in welcoming **Dr. Jason Fedwick as the new Surgical Direct Admit/RAAPID Lead through the PIN** — a position that has been advertised in our newsletter over the past few months. Dr. Fedwick brings extensive operational experience to this role, having previously served as both a site lead and a program director. We are excited for the expertise and leadership he brings, and we look forward to seeing the excellent work he will do in developing and refining processes to support our patients and teams.

Catherine

Connect Care Updates

Many thanks to **Dr. Lanette Prediger, Provincial Medical Informatics Lead (PMIL)** for the update below:

There are new Ambulatory/Inpatient DI Interventional Radiology Order Sets that were just recently approved and went live in CC. The reasons for the changes were to ensure the ordering provider is submitting the orders for each test correctly, and that the orders are in the appropriate phase of care so as to not be missed by radiologists/nurses/technologists who perform the tests. The new order sets are:

- Interventional Radiology Thoracentesis/Paracentesis (Ambulatory/Inpatient)
- Interventional Radiology Fluid/Abscess Aspiration/Drainage (Ambulatory/Inpatient)
- Interventional Radiology Joint Aspiration/Injection (Ambulatory/Inpatient)
- Interventional Radiology Mass/Organ Biopsy (Ambulatory/Inpatient)
- Ambulatory Interventional Radiology Lumbar Puncture

Moving forward, using the order sets will be the only way to order many IR tests (essentially all Ultrasound, CT, or IR guided Procedures):

- Angiography/Ultrasound Guided Aspiration and/or Injection
- Angiography/CT/Ultrasound Guided Fluid Aspiration
- Angiography/CT/Ultrasound Biopsy
- Thoracentesis/Paracentesis Procedures

Here is the tip sheet with detailed instructions:

<https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/Main/assets/cistr/tms-cis-tr-cmio-Diagnostic-Imaging-OrderSets-for-Guided-Procedures.pdf>

[If not logged into AHS - Tip Sheet as attached PDF](#)

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,
James

james.andruchow@ahs.ca

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

Grand Rounds Will Return September 4, 2025. Check back in August!

Grand Rounds Archive

Journal Club Updates

Thank you to our June staff preceptor - Dr. Gavin Greenfield - as well as our staff host - Dr. Dave Mainprize! Also a huge thank you to our resident leads for this sessions: Drs. Friesen-Enns & Singh!

June 2025

Overview: A single centre US retrospective study comparing a paralytic-first strategy versus a sedative-first strategy in emergency department rapid sequence intubations to reduce first-pass failure.

Bottom Line: Consider administering paralytic first, then induction agent 20-30 seconds later, to ensure simultaneous onset and increased probability of first pass success in emergency RSI

Summary: <https://www.calgaryem.com/admin/storage/uploads/2025/07/04/686844089b020June-2025---Sedative-versus-paralytic-first-strategy-for-intubation.pdf>

One last thank you to all the faculty and staff who helped make journal club this year so successful by participating, hosting or preceptoring! We would not be able to run these without your support.

In a few weeks, we'll begin advertising for the 2025-2026 year! If you haven't come out to one before, think about joining us for a relaxing evening with colleagues, enjoying a delicious meal, & chatting over a new journal article!

Cody and Omar

Department News

CCFP-EM Program Accreditation

Thanks to the dedicated work of outgoing CCFP-EM Program Director Dr. Charles Wong and Enhanced Skills Program Director Dr. Jenny Edge, the CCFP-EM Program has retained its accredited status! Drs. Wong and Edge have been instrumental in strengthening the program since the initial accreditation review in 2022, dedicating countless hours in preparation for the final accreditation visit in June 2025. We would not have such a strong program without their leadership and commitment.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing CCFP-EM residents—**Drs. Gunn, Boone, Baker, Soh, Park, Keshvara, Exner, and Paxton**—for a fantastic year. Drs. Exner and Paxton will remain in Calgary, while the rest of the group head off to Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria, Newfoundland, and even Inuvik! This was a truly well-loved group who made meaningful contributions to our department, and we can't wait to see what they accomplish next in Emergency Medicine.

Thanks – Amanda

Kudos – Patient Commendation

From a grateful PLC patient:

Dr. Lalani is an outstanding emergency physician whose professionalism, compassion, and clinical expertise brought reassurance and dignity during a stressful ED visit. His exemplary care and empathetic approach set a high standard in emergency medicine and reflect great credit on Alberta Health Services.

Teaching Opportunities

Academic Day Preceptor Opportunities

Happy new academic year! There are only THREE didactic academic sessions from now until the end of December that still need staff preceptors. You can find them listed below (if there are none listed that means they all got picked up). As a reminder these are lectures that the residents prepare and deliver with staff acting in a preceptor role.

- [Academic Day Preceptor Opportunities](#)

If you are able to help out please email me (kelsey.ragan@ucalgary.ca).

Thanks in advance for everyone's ongoing support of the EM Residency programs 😊

Kelsey

Job Postings

Applications Welcome - Director Alberta International Medical Graduate (AIMG) Program

The Cumming School of Medicine invites applications for the position of **Director, Alberta International Medical Graduate (AIMG) Program**, for a start date of **September 1, 2025**. Reporting to the Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education, the Director provides strategic, operational, and educational leadership for the provincial AIMG Program. This 0.2 FTE role is ideal for a physician with significant experience in medical education, program administration, and assessment processes. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the Offices of Postgraduate Medical Education at both the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta as well as Alberta Health.

Please send expressions of interest, CV, and names of three referees to pgdean@ucalgary.ca by **July 23, 2025**.

[For more details, read the attached pdf.](#)

Catherine

Work Opportunities

Lethbridge ED Coverage

Lethbridge continues to have significant coverage gaps. The following urgent gaps are currently open for coverage of mid-day shifts (11:00-19:00) :July 11, 13, 15, 27, 30, 31 and August 16.

In addition to those more critical coverage days, there is the option to pick up a 5 hour evening surge shift (19H-midnight) on most days in both July and August.

Lethbridge ED sees 140 to 180 patients daily, with 8-hour physician shifts covering an average of 20 to 30 patients per shift. Depending on the time of day, there are 1 to 3 physicians on duty. We operate as a full-scope ED, managing both adult and pediatric patients, and are designated as a Level 3 trauma center. The department is staffed by a mix of CCFP-EM and FRCP-EM trained physicians and functions as a regional referral destination, providing comprehensive emergency care to a broad catchment area

Trauma Coverage Gaps

The Department of Surgery continues to be challenged with many gaps in Tier 1 coverage for Trauma.

This month most of the gaps are filled in by AP's (taking over time) or resident extenders.

However, they are currently left **with 1 gap in Block 1 for Monday July 14 1700-0800.**

The Zone has approved the following funding structure: Emergency Physicians at \$288 per hour or resident extenders \$190 per hour.

ED providers interested in this opportunity can contact Linda.Kuijten@albertahealthservices.ca for more information

Catherine

In Case You Missed Last Week

Meet the New Residents 2025-2026

Please give our new residents a warm welcome.

Encourage and support them as they grow with our team. Their bios and photos can be viewed below:

[CCFP-EM – Bios of residents](#)

[FRCPC – Bios of residents](#)

[Emergency Composite 2025-2026](#)

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



Updated Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: natalie.sun@ahs.ca and CC Ruchi Sharma (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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Rockyview General Hospital 7007-14 St SW

Calgary Alberta T2V 1P9 Canada

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