

# Understanding Who's Who in Alberta's Health Care

The different roles that health care organizations have in Alberta's health care system can be daunting. Each organization plays a significant role in a family physician's career. Here's a quick tour around the organization and association landscape, and the ACFP's role within it.

## College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSA)

The CPSA licenses physicians, develops, and administers standards of practice and conduct, and investigates/resolves physician-related complaints.

## Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP)

The ACFP is a voluntary, professional organization for more than 5,600 family physicians, family medicine residents, and medical students in Alberta. We focus on member services and engagement through supporting family physicians in their continuing professional development (CPD) needs, advocacy, leadership, and primary care research. As a provincial chapter of the CFPC, we support the certification of CPD opportunities delivered in the province.

## College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)

The CFPC is a professional association and the legal certifying body for the practice of family medicine in Canada with more than 42,000 members. As the professional body representing family physicians, it defines the discipline of family medicine by establishing standards for clinical practice, training, certification and accreditation of CPD.

## Provincial Medical Schools

University of Alberta (U of A) and the University of Calgary (U of C) are two of 17 medical schools in Canada with a combined graduating class size of more than 300. The CFPC plays a key role in maintaining the reputation of excellence of family medicine training at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in all 17 Canadian medical schools. As a provincial chapter, the ACFP endeavors to support family medicine as a first-choice specialty.

## Alberta Medical Association (AMA), Section of Family Medicine/ Rural Medicine

The Sections of Family Medicine and Rural Medicine represent all family physicians within the AMA. They strive to help general practitioners provide quality care to patients, achieve economic wellbeing, and enjoy quality of life either in urban or rural practice.

I'm a Family Physician

## Alberta Health (AH)

Alberta Health is the ministry that sets policy, legislation, and standards for the health system in Alberta.

## Alberta Health Services (AHS)

AHS delivers medical care on behalf of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Health through 850 facilities throughout the province, including hospitals, clinics, continuing care facilities, mental health facilities and community health sites.

## Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

PCNs are organizational structures created in 2003 to integrate the financing, organization, management, and delivery of primary health care services. PCNs are groups of family physician clinics who work with Alberta Health Services and other health professionals to coordinate the delivery of primary care services for their patients.

## Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs)

AHS has created SCNs and Provincial Programs to advance improvements in specific areas of health and work provincially to develop integrated, sustainable solutions to complex, multidisciplinary challenges.

# Understanding Who's Who in Alberta's Health Care System and ACFP's Role Within It

## University of Alberta (U of A)

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the U of A provides a four-year undergraduate degree in medical studies and is comprised of 20 departments, including the Department of Family Medicine. The Family Medicine Residency program is one of 55 programs available at the U of A and is a world-class program following the Triple C curriculum, offering distributed residency training sites in diverse communities, with academic support. The Family Medicine training program, accredited by the CFPC provides clinical, research, teaching, and leadership experience in a variety of settings that prepares residents to serve the needs of Albertans, Canadians and the world throughout their careers.

## How the ACFP Works With the U of A:

The ACFP is pleased to work and collaborate with the U of A on several programs that promote family medicine as a first-choice specialty. It works with the medical student and family medicine resident representatives from the U of A to develop, communicate, and promote the ACFP activities tailored for the U of A from student information sessions to skills sessions and general support for CPD.

## University of Calgary (U of C)

University of Calgary's (U of C) Faculty of Medicine was established in 1967 and renamed the Cumming School of Medicine in 2014. It is one of two three-year medical schools, along with McMaster University Medical School, in Canada. The U of C has two Departments of Family Medicine representing academic and community arms. The academic department is supported by education, research and administrative pillars of the university. The Family Medicine Residency program at the Cumming School of Medicine at the U of C provides two programs—urban residency program and a rural residency program.

## How the ACFP Works With the U of C:

Like with the U of A, the ACFP works with the U of C to promote family medicine to medical students and supports the family medicine residency program through various means including funding support to attend ACFP CPD activities, presentation of skills sessions, and general support for CPD.

## College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSA)

The CPSA regulates the practice of medicine in Alberta. The CPSA licenses physicians, develops, and administers standards of practice and conduct, and investigates/resolves physician-related complaints.

## How the ACFP Works With the CPSA:

The requirement of the CPSA is that all family physicians have an accountability to continuing professional development through a credential-granting body. The CFPC grants the credential and the ACFP ensures that there are certified CPD opportunities provided in Alberta in order that family physician members are able to maintain their proficiency throughout their career. The ACFP also communicates regularly with the CPSA to identify and design programs in areas of need for CPD based on physician performance and compliance under their jurisdiction.

## Alberta Medical Association (AMA), Section of Family Medicine/Rural Medicine

The AMA represents Alberta's physicians, residents and medical students in matters related to the promotion of health, the provision of and payment for medical services, and the integrity of the profession. The Sections of Family Medicine and Rural Medicine represent all family physicians within the AMA. They strive to help general practitioners provide quality care to patients, achieve economic wellbeing, and enjoy quality of life either in urban or rural practice.

## How the ACFP Works With the AMA, its Sections and Programs:

The AMA is a partner of the ACFP in the provision of programs and supports for our common membership. Efforts are made to advocate jointly for policy and programs that support the Patient's Medical Home and optimal use of resources in the delivery of care to families and individuals in community. The ACFP is a partner on the Primary Care Alliance where all primary care physician organizations work together and provide one voice for the advancement of excellence in primary care to our constituents and key stakeholders.

## Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians of Canada (Royal College)

Like the CFPC, the Royal College is the national college for the CPSA. It is a national, nonprofit organization established in 1929 by a special Act of Parliament to oversee the medical education of specialists in Canada. It is an association of physicians concerned with setting national standards for medical education and CPD in Canada for 80 medical specialties. All specialists in Canada except family physicians must be certified by the Royal College before they obtain a provincial or territorial license to practice.

## How the ACFP Works With the Royal College:

The CFPC and the Royal College work together on building the national standards for CPD for all of their provincial designates to uphold.

## The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)

The CFPC is a professional association and the legal certifying body for the practice of family medicine in Canada with more than 42,000 members. Working with our provincial chapters, the CFPC is committed to the highest standards for patient care. It provides and supports research, teaching, and accreditation for postgraduate family medicine programs across the country. As the professional body representing family physicians, the CFPC defines the discipline of family medicine by establishing standards for clinical practice, training, certification and accreditation of continuing professional development. It accredits postgraduate family medicine training in Canada's medical schools, conducts the certification examination in family medicine, and grants the certification (CCFP) and fellowship (FCFP) designations.

## How the ACFP Works With the CFPC:

As the provincial chapter of the CFPC, the ACFP is committed in providing the highest standards for patient care through the provision and certification of continuing professional development and a vision of the Patient's Medical Home. The ACFP serves as an extension of the CFPC through its communications, certification of CPD activities, and member engagement initiatives.

## Alberta Health (AH)

AH is the ministry that sets policy, legislation, and standards for the health system in Alberta. The ministry allocates health funding and administers provincial programs such as the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan and provides expertise on communicable disease control.

## How the ACFP Works With the AH:

The ACFP is often invited by AH to provide feedback or counsel on health care policy, legislation, and standards involving family medicine and primary care. The ACFP is pleased to provide guidance and support in advancing health for patients, families, and communities where every Alberta has a Patient's Medical Home—a vision that is shared and complements the AH's Primary Health Care Strategy.

## Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs)

SCNs align, support, and empower teams of clinicians, strategy leaders, operational leaders, researchers, patients, and other important community leaders and stakeholders with the appropriate tools, accountability, responsibility, and authority for shared clinical, strategic and tactical decision-making. SCNs focuses on prevention and on improving the quality of care delivery. Critical to the success of these networks is the engagement with physicians at all levels. Teams work in specific areas of health with the goal of finding new and innovative ways of delivering care that will provide better quality, better outcomes and better value for every Albertan.

## How the ACFP Works With the SCNs:

The ACFP has built a partnership with the AHS and its many SCNs to bring a primary care physician perspective to the table. The ACFP brings a unique advantage to the work on local or system level clinical improvements by offering access to clinical evidence, practical experience of, and connection to our family physician members working in various practice settings.

## Alberta Health Services (AHS)

AHS delivers medical care on behalf of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Health through 850 facilities throughout the province, including hospitals, clinics, continuing care facilities, mental health facilities and community health sites, while providing a variety of programs and services. AHS is the largest single health authority in Canada and is the largest employer in the province of Alberta as well as being the 5th largest single employer in Canada.

## How the ACFP Works With the AHS:

The ACFP is currently working with the AHS Primary Health Care and Medical Affairs division on several stakeholder collaborations. Through the Primary Care Alliance, the ACFP works collaboratively to support the integration and quality improvement projects impacted by primary care.

## AMA Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT)

In 2016, the AMA's programs of Practice Management Program, Toward Optimized Practice, and PCN Program Management Office began working together to better integrate the support and change services offered to AMA's members. These programs officially merged on November 1, 2018 and were renamed Accelerating Change Transformation Team or ACTT. ACTT is supported through an agreement between the Alberta Medical Association and Alberta Health.

## How the ACFP Works With ACTT:

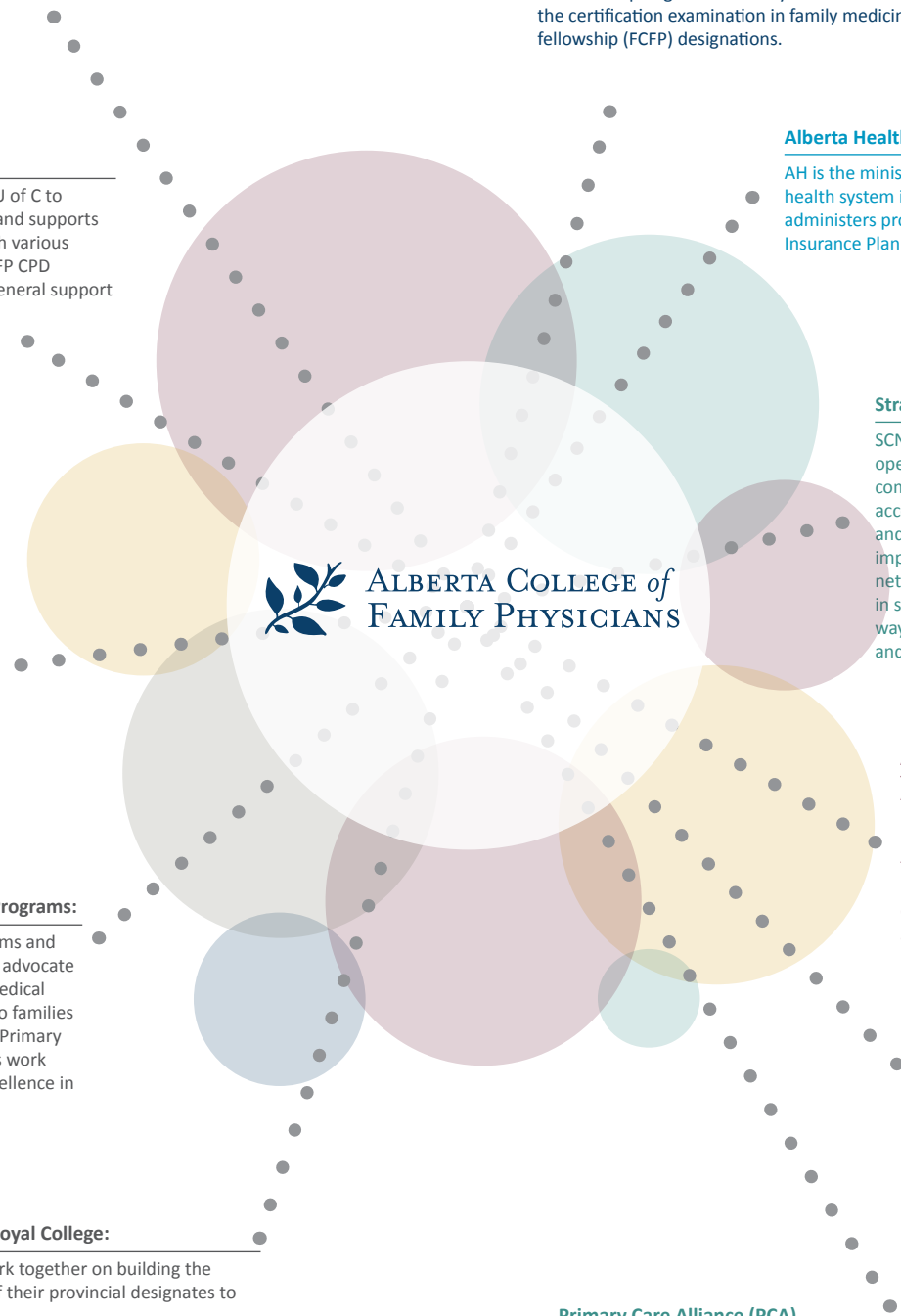
The ACFP works closely with ACTT as it supports the vision for the Patient's Medical Home and finds ways where collaborations are synergistic.

## Primary Care Alliance (PCA)

The Alberta PCA brings together the multiple perspectives, experiences, and expertise of primary health care partners who are involved in the advancement and improvement of primary health care provided to patients, families, and communities in Alberta. To advocate and support these constituents, members of the PCA work collectively by sharing resources and mandates which promote a progressive primary health care system province-wide.

## How the ACFP Works With the PCA:

As a member of the PCA, the ACFP brings a unique perspective representing over 5,600 members with various areas of focus, populations served, geographical locations and practice types. As the organization that provides continuing professional development, leadership, and advocacy for the advancement of family practice, the ACFP offers access to resources and a willingness to collaborate on issues and initiatives of interest to our constituents in primary health care.



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# About the ACFP

The Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP) is a voluntary, professional organization for more than 5,600 family physicians, family medicine residents, and medical students in Alberta. We focus on member services and engagement by supporting family physicians in their CPD needs, advocacy, leadership, and primary care research. As a provincial chapter, we support our National College, in its work to define the discipline of family medicine by establishing standards for clinical practice, training, certification, and accreditation of CPD and by providing certification support for CPD delivered in Alberta.

As the exclusive voice for family physicians and family medicine in Alberta, the ACFP works hard to collaborate with our stakeholders to ensure our participation and leadership in conversations advancing excellence in family medicine and family practice where every Albertan has a Patient's Medical Home.

## We are dedicated to provide you:

### CPD

- Family Medicine Summit
- Virtual Doctors' Lounge
- Virtual Collaboration Forums
- Webinars
- Tools for Practice
- CFPCLearn
- Provincial Certification
- Family Medicine and Primary Care Research

### Member Engagement

- Medical Student Support
- Family Medicine Resident Support
- First Five Years in Family Practice Support
- Family Physician Leadership
- Mentorship and Peer-to-Peer Support
- Online Community Platform
- Membership Support for Emerging Issues/Trends
- Membership Awards and Recognition

### Advocacy

- ACFP Members
- Family Medicine
- Patient's Medical Home
- Health Policy
- Forums, Symposiums, and Focus Groups
- Partnerships and Relationship Building

Learn more about  
Student Programming:



Or visit our website:  
[www.acfp.ca](http://www.acfp.ca)