



Please distribute to all physicians, dentists, oral & maxillofacial surgeons and/or podiatrists.

Date: November 21, 2014

To: AHS Medical Staff

From: Dr. Verna Yiu, VP Quality & Chief Medical Officer

Re: National Physician Assistant Day – November 27, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

November 27 is National Physician Assistant Day in Canada. A short two years ago, this date probably wouldn't hold much significance to most of us. But in back in 2013, AHS launched the Physician Assistant Demonstration Project, a two-year pilot aimed at integrating Physician Assistants (PAs) into AHS facilities across the province. Alongside physicians, nurses and other care providers, 12 PAs are now successfully providing high quality patient care in communities like Beaverlodge in the North to Milk River in the South and many places in between. Now, in 2014, November 27 is a day upon which AHS should reflect and celebrate.

The Project holds great importance for AHS and the future of healthcare in Alberta and in addition to the current sites, we are working with physician and patient groups and other stakeholders to determine where PAs might best be suited for future roles.

So far, feedback from both patients and providers has been overwhelmingly positive. Patients receiving care within units where a PA is stationed are experiencing shorter wait times while the physicians supervising the PAs suggest that they are experiencing less strain on their patient load.

To learn more about PAs and the demonstration project, please visit:

www.albertahealthservices.ca/8754.asp.

I also invite you to listen to the latest episode of the CMO Forum podcast series, where I'm joined by Dr. Neil Gibson and PA Paul Haskins to discuss the Project and the future of PAs in Alberta:

www.albertahealthservices.ca/10110.asp.

With best regards,

Dr. Verna Yiu