



Message from the Interim Zone Clinical Department Head



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

Update from the Interim Zone Clinical Department Head

■ I hope everyone had a restful and nourishing holiday season.

Here are a few updates to get your calendar year started.

1. Budgets – Shortly before the end of 2016 AHS Executive was told by the Province that next year's budget increment would be 0.5 per cent, rather than an anticipated 3 to 6 per cent, resulting in a projected deficit of close to \$600 million for 2017/18. It's too soon to say what effect this will have on surgical services, but so far there have been no plans to cut back; your executive is working very hard to find savings in other areas.
2. Department Leadership
 - a. Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Keith Hult, who has agreed to take on the duties of Anesthesia Site Chief at Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital, on an interim basis. He takes over from Dr. Laszlo Torok-Both. Many thanks to Laszlo for his decades of strong medical leadership and service to the Fort Saskatchewan community.
 - b. We have officially posted the position of Director of Quality, Equipment and Procurement (see attached draft) for the Zone Department. This is a big job with lots of potential. Please consider applying if you have the time and inclination, by sending an email and your CV to Lorraine (lnowak@ualberta.ca). I am also happy to answer any questions about the position.
3. Medical Affairs Housekeeping – It's that time of year for providing your CMPA and CPSA credentials as part of the AIVA process – expect a notice soon. The Anesthesia privileges list has had a makeover recently and is quite a bit more detailed than it used to be. Also, Provincial Medical Affairs is developing a rather extensive manpower database that requires us (that is: ME) to specify the most up-to-date information about your practice profile with AHS, the deadline being some time in February. THEREFORE, expect to spend some time reviewing and updating your current privileges and FTE designations with Lorraine and/or your site or division chief. ALSO THEREFORE, don't be a jerk about it.



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4. Narcotic handling – Yes, this. For the love of all things cute and cuddly, please give your site chiefs a break by properly disposing of or returning your unused narcotics, and use all your super powers to accurately tally your returns. Beside the headaches caused by leaving this stuff around, it really does present a hazard, makes us all look bad, and makes it very difficult for me to defend our current practice.
5. Surgical Uplift – A sincere thanks to everyone for stepping it up over the summer and fall during the uplift. We've made a significant dent in out-of-window wait times, and to my knowledge there were zero cancellations or empty rooms due to Anesthesia manpower issues. NICELY DONE.

Thanks so much for all your support, and the excellent care and leadership you provide every day. I'd give you all a big hug, but I now realize some people aren't comfortable with that.

Sincerely,

KD (drader@ualberta.ca)

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