



Alberta Referral Directory

What is the Alberta Referral Directory (ARD)?

The ARD is a secure, online directory that provides access to service and consultant demographics, referral guidelines and instructions about how to facilitate efficient and effective referrals, including referral forms. The ARD centralizes referral information for Alberta Health Services (AHS) consulting physicians and AHS scheduled ambulatory services.

The ARD goal is to spare clinicians from the need to publish referral information in multiple areas. ARD updates are real-time, easy to maintain, and more reliable than paper directories.

Who can use the ARD?

Any authorized Alberta healthcare provider can view ARD information conveniently within Netcare. Key information is also available to all Albertans via an easily explored web interface. ARD gives primary care and other referring clinicians a single source of online referral information for all AHS-affiliated ambulatory services.

All AHS-affiliated consulting physicians are required to register for ARD access (easily accomplished using a CPSA number), log in, and ensure that their service profiles are accurate. Users can also register for ARD credentials and use these to log on via an ARD website (www.albertareferraldirectory.ca). Additions and edits do require authentication.

What can the ARD be used for?

Referring providers can seek consulting services by zone, keyword and other parameters to produce a list of services and typical wait times. Upon selecting a potential consultant or service, they can review accepted reasons for referral, referral guidelines, referral forms, communication turn-around times, and even details like parking and directions.

Services provide specific information about how referrals are triaged, estimated wait time for routine referrals and how to ensure an efficient and effective pathway to care. The ARD is not used for credentialing, performance review or any form of service monitoring.

How does the ARD relate to other registry initiatives?

ARD provider demographics draw from and are synchronized weekly with the Alberta Provider Registry that underpins Netcare, AHS clinical information systems, Connect Care and Alberta's [Provider Self-Serve Portal](#). The Netcare eReferral Health Service Catalogue and the ARD also maintain consistent referral information. Not all connections are real-time or bi-directional. Physicians must continue to update College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and AHS medical staff databases yearly. Ultimately, Connect Care will amalgamate all information about consultants and services, integrate these with enterprise referral and scheduling, and ease community access through the [Connect Care Provider Portal](#).

Where can more information be found?

ARD is supported by AHS, with information at ahs.ca/ard and logons available via [Netcare](#) or www.albertareferraldirectory.ca. A [consultant guide](#) provides useful instructions.