

WORK CENTRAL AB

Healthcare Services

Hospitals, Clinics, and Care Across the Region

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Healthcare Services in Central Alberta

Central Alberta's healthcare system is anchored by the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, supported by a network of community health centres and clinics across the region. This guide covers what's available and how the system is organized.

1. Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (RDRHC)

RDRHC is the only regional referral centre for Alberta Health Services' Central Zone, serving over 450,000 people across an area stretching from Drumheller to Two Hills and from Saskatchewan to the Rocky Mountains. It houses 24-hour emergency services, the Central Alberta Cancer Centre, a dialysis clinic, and pediatric and special care services, among other specialized programs.

- The hospital is currently undergoing a major redevelopment, adding a new patient tower and roughly 200 additional inpatient beds - increasing total capacity from 370 to 570 beds once complete.
- The redevelopment includes new operating rooms, cardiac catheterization labs, an endoscopy unit, and an expanded inpatient renal dialysis unit.
- Expect ongoing construction-related access and parking changes near the hospital during the redevelopment period.

2. Community Health Centres

Beyond the hospital, Red Deer operates several community health centres offering primary care, mental health services, and other outpatient programs, including locations on 49th Street, Bremner Avenue, and Johnstone Crossing.

3. Finding a Family Doctor or Walk-In Clinic

- Wait times for a family doctor can vary across the region - start searching as soon as you arrive, since some clinics maintain waitlists.
- Walk-in clinics are available across Red Deer and surrounding communities for non-emergency needs when your family doctor isn't available.
- Call 811 (Health Link), a free 24/7 health information service, for advice on where to seek care for a specific concern.

4. Healthcare in Surrounding Communities

Beyond Red Deer

Sylvan Lake, Lacombe, Blackfalds, and Olds each have local clinics and urgent care options for non-emergency needs.

For specialized or emergency care, residents of surrounding communities are typically referred to Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre.

Rural residents should factor in travel time to Red Deer when planning for specialized appointments or emergency situations.

5. Registering for Care

Before accessing non-emergency services, make sure you're registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) - see our Healthcare Registration guide for the full process. Emergency care is always available regardless of registration status.

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Common Questions

Where do I go for a true medical emergency? Go directly to Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre's emergency department, or call 911 - emergency care is never withheld regardless of AHCIP registration status.

What should I do if I don't have a family doctor yet? Use walk-in clinics for non-emergency needs in the meantime, and call 811 (Health Link) for guidance on where to seek care.

Will hospital construction affect my visit? Possibly - check current access and parking notices before visiting RDRHC, as the redevelopment project is ongoing.

Healthcare Services Checklist

- ✓ Registered for AHCIP if you haven't already
- ✓ Located the nearest community health centre or walk-in clinic
- ✓ Started searching for a family doctor
- ✓ Saved 811 (Health Link) as a resource for health advice
- ✓ Noted current construction-related access changes near RDRHC, if applicable

Discover More With Work Central AB

See our Healthcare Registration guide in the Moving to Central Alberta series for the AHCIP registration process. Visit **workcentralab.ca/resources**.