

Zone Medical Staff Associations FAQ

WHAT ARE ZONE MEDICAL STAFF ASSOCIATIONS (ZMSAs)?

ZMSAs are the local voice for 4300+ physicians in the [North](#), [Edmonton](#), [Central](#), [Calgary](#) and [South](#) zones.

ADVOCATING: We represent all physicians across Alberta in each zone. We organize to address patient care issues, health system changes and the medical profession. We represent member interests on Alberta Health Services Medical Staff Bylaws and Rules committees related to the medical leadership structure, medical staff appointments, clinical privileges, responsibilities and accountability, periodic reviews, and concerns.

EDUCATING: We offer opportunities to our members that support their well-being, medical practice and leadership.

CONNECTING: We gather socially for physicians to build relationships. Fostering relationships with our colleagues builds better medical practice and brings us together as a profession.

ZMSAs are equitably funded and supported (financial, in-kind and central administrative support) by the AMA and AHS but remain independent of either organization. ZMSAs are truly grass roots organizations that exist to represent all physicians. Each ZMSA has an executive committee – who are either elected or appointed – committed to ensuring local physician issues are acknowledged.

IN WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES ARE ZMSAs INVOLVED?

- Gathering advice from zone physicians and advocating on local and zone issues.
- Meetings with Zone Medical Directors.
- Council of Zone Leaders, the primary function of which is to be a venue for the AMA and ZMSAs Presidents to discuss and consider common issues and developments on a provincial and zonal basis, where zonal leaders can share issues and concerns, and from which the AMA may identify common themes the association can advance on behalf of members.
- Bylaws-mandated AHS committees, both zone and provincial.
- A joint AMA-AHS Provincial Liaison Forum.
- Leading the local Zonal Advisory Forum (ZAF), designed to provide the ZMSA, the AMA and AHS with a collective perspective from practising physicians about local and provincial issues.

IS ZMSA MEMBERSHIP AUTOMATIC FOR ALBERTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA) MEMBERS?

No. ZMSA membership is voluntary, and dues are paid annually.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M A ZMSA MEMBER. HOW CAN I CHECK?

There are 2 options:

1. Contact zmsadmin@albertadoctors.org and a member of the administrative office will confirm your membership.
2. If you are an AMA member: log into your AMA membership portal and your ZMSA membership status will be listed under My Profile of your Member Dashboard.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A ZMSA MEMBER?

All physicians practising within each zone are eligible to become members of their local ZMSA.

- Physicians do not have to have an appointment with Alberta Health Services (AHS).
- Physicians do not have to be an AMA member.

CAN PHYSICIANS WHO ARE NOT AMA MEMBERS JOIN A ZMSA?

Yes. All physicians practising within each zone are eligible to become members of their local ZMSA.

HOW DO I JOIN?

For instructions on how to join your local ZMSA visit: www.albertazmsa.com/join

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRIMARY AND ASSOCIATE ZMSA MEMBERSHIP?

Physicians can choose to join up to two (2) ZMSAs. If they choose to do so:

- They will receive all correspondence from both ZMSAs.
- They will receive meeting and event invitations from both ZMSAs.
- They are eligible to vote within their Primary ZMSA.
- They are not eligible to vote within their Associate ZMSA.

WHAT IS REPRESENTATIVE FORUM (RF) AND THE ROLE OF ZMSAs?

The RF is the governing body of the Alberta Medical Association. This group of representatives is responsible for the overall policy direction of the organization to meet the best interests of members.

The RF - consisting of delegates from every specialty, geographic area, medical residents, medical students, the College of Physicians & Surgeons and deans of the medical schools - meets at least twice a year (Fall and Spring).

Each ZMSA President attends RF as per the requirements of their role; alternates can attend in place of the President if needed.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ZMSAS IN THE SELECTION OF ZONE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES?

To fill vacancies in Zone RF representation, a ZMSA will:

- Submit slate of candidates sufficient to fill vacancies in RF representation
- the ZMSA slate of candidates will be circulated with the Call for Nominations, which is sent to all eligible AMA members in the zone. The election process will proceed as usual if more nominations are received than positions available. If no further nominations are received, the ZMSA slate of candidates will be declared elected by acclamation.

If a RF delegate is unable to attend:

- Delegate can contact and/or recommend alternate.
- ZMSA President must approve alternate suggested via email to AMA RF organizers.
- ZMSA Executive maintains list of possible Zone alternates to call upon if required.

WHAT IF I AM NOT A ZMSA MEMBER BUT HAVE A CONCERN I WANT TO SHARE WITH THE ZMSA EXECUTIVES?

Actions on behalf of the ZMSA benefit all physicians in the zone, not only those who are members. Any physician in the zone, member or not, may bring concerns to the attention of the ZMSA Executive. The ZMSAs have policies to evaluate these concerns and often bring them forward whether the physician is a member or not.