

OBJECTIVE

Alberta clinicians will have a systematic approach to addressing patient complaints and clinical presentations that may be associated with odors and emissions from oil and gas development and operation activity.

TARGET POPULATION

Everyone

EXCLUSIONS

Exposures occurring in occupational settings and/or the home environment.

KEY MESSAGES

Scenario	Assessment	Lab/Other Tests	Treatment
To the primary care physician's (PCP) knowledge, the Zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH) is not aware of, nor has informed the local physicians of any environmental exposure in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Determine if any relevant environmental emissions exposures have occurred by identifying any red flags. ✓ Contact the respective Zone MOH if any red flags are identified: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/if-hp-phys-clin-moh-contact-list.pdf. ✓ If the situation is more urgent, contact the MOH on-call: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/if-hp-phys-clin-moh-on-call-contact-information.pdf. ✓ Obtain consent from the patient and provide their information to the MOH (patient information required will be determined by the MOH at the time of the consult). 	As requested by MOH.	Treat symptoms as per usual care or as directed by a toxicology expert*if/when involved.
The PCP recalls a notice from the Zone MOH informing of an environmental exposure risk in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review MOH <i>Communication to Physicians</i> notifications at: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/Page7082.aspx. ✓ Contact the Zone MOH if the patient presents with one or more red flags. 	As above	As above

Scenario	Assessment	Lab/Other Tests	Treatment
For all scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consider contacting a toxicology expert for further assessment guidance. Options: ✓ Contact Poison and Drug Information Services (PADIS) ✓ http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/Padis/hi-padis-med-tox-clinic-intro-letter.pdf ✓ Alternatively, for discussion and/or patient referral see list of Toxicology Experts in Alberta. ✓ Arrange for patient to complete any detailed assessment or questionnaire requested by PADIS or other toxicology expert and forward the required and any other relevant information. ✓ Contact the respective Zone MOH to discuss, if the patient presents with red flags (suggesting a recent environmental exposure) see Zone MOH_contact list at: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/if-hp-phys-clin-moh-contact-list.pdf. 	As requested by specialist.	Treat symptoms as per usual care or per toxicology expert* advice.
<p>*Toxicology expert is a physician in Alberta with expertise in medical toxicology or environmental exposures and has agreed to assist primary care physicians in the clinical management of their patients (see Appendix B in the full guideline for names and details).</p>			

Environmental Red Flags Checklist

The patient presents with any of the following:

- ✓ New/unusual odors detected outside and/or coming into their living space.
- ✓ Symptoms that improve when leaving/not in their neighborhood/community.
- ✓ Symptoms that return and/or get worse when returning to the neighborhood/community.
- ✓ The complaint is due to recent heavy oil and gas operators practice changes in the area.
- ✓ The patient has already contacted the Alberta Energy Regulator/Alberta Environmental health Hotline, Health Link or PADIS, and was told to visit their family physician.
- ✓ The complaint IS NOT related to an occupational exposure or an exposure source within the interior home/personal living space.

ALGORITHM

