

# PTSA Conference 2025

Role of Outpatient Contract  
Pharmacy Technician

Sept 12 & 13 2025

Objective

Intro

AHS

Special Access Program

The Trend

Contact

Conclusion

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

# Objective

1. **By the end of the session, pharmacy technician attendees will be able to describe at least three core functions of the liaison role between Alberta Health Services and contracted outpatient pharmacies, emphasizing how these functions support patient care.**
2. **Attendees will be able to interpret real-world data presented during the session to identify how pharmacy technicians contribute to the distribution and management of Special Access Program (SAP) drugs within outpatient settings.**
3. **Participants will compare two significant developments in outpatient pharmacy services over the past five years and explain how these changes have expanded the pharmacy technician's scope of practice in the outpatient setting.**
4. **By the end of the session, participants will be able to identify at least one non-traditional or emerging pharmacy technician role discussed and reflect on how their own skills could be applied to pursue similar opportunities, fostering the understanding that diverse career paths are possible within the profession.**

# Disclosure

I have no current or past relationships with commercial entities

I have received no speaker's fee for this learning activity

# Rilla Sakamaki

## Pharmacy Technician

- Graduated diploma program

### Community

- Community Pharmacy Technician
- Compounding specialist

### Rural Hospital

- Hospital Pharmacy Technician
- Sterile Compounding Specialist

### AHS Outpatient Contract Team

- Inventory
- Special Access Program Expert

### Compounding lab

- Community Pharmacy Technician
- Compounding Specialist

# Alberta Health - Outpatient Contract

Outpatient pharmacy sites operate a variety of AHS programs and initiatives. Therefore an AHS team was put into place to work as a liaison between AHS and the contracted vendor.

- In early 2000 Alberta Health Services (AHS) contracted out outpatient pharmacies: 2 hospitals in Edmonton:
  - University of Alberta
  - Royal Alexandra Hospital
- Then 2011 we added 3 of the hospitals in Calgary:
  - Foothills Medical Centre
  - Peter Lougheed Hospital
  - Alberta Children's Hospital
- Since 2011, we have added the 4th and 5th outpatient pharmacy
  - South Health Campus
  - Rockyview General Hospital
  - KEC in Edmonton

# Alberta Health - Outpatient Contract

The AH team oversee the many speciality drug programs and managing the contract and relationship between AHS and the outpatient pharmacies.

Programs including:

- Specialized High Cost Drug Program (SHCDP)
- Short-Term Exceptional Drug Therapy Program (STEDT)
- Rare Disease Grant
- Cystic Fibrosis patient under the care of CF clinic.

The contract team oversee other aspects such as:

- The medication procurement and inventory reconciliation
- Assisting in the provision of Special Access Programme medication for outpatient patients under the care of Alberta Health
- Verifying invoices, verifying billable transaction and preparing payments
- Management of program enrollment and ensuring patient compliance and seamless patient therapy.
- We assist in clinics and physicians to set up and administer programs and patient care through outpatient contract pharmacies.

# Special Access Program

- ❖ Provided by Health Canada,
  - Request access to marketed drugs and medical devices that are not yet authorized for sale in Canada.
  
- ❖ Why SAP:
  - Treat patient with serious or life threatening conditions.
  - These drugs are only considered when all other conventional therapies have failed or are not suitable for the specific patients.
  - Drug is not available to the Canadian market
  - Drug in under clinical development
  - Drug had been pulled off the canadian market
  - There is no prevalence of disease in Canada.
  
- ❖ The program receives about 1000 requests each month from across the country.

# Special Access Program

Physician / Clinic initiates treatment :  
Submission of Form A

Decision Making:  
-Approval  
-Cancellation  
-Denial  
-Incomplete

Health Canada / pharmacists and other team members at Health Canada assess the form A to ensure all information that is required eg. medical history, treatment history, clinic and physician assessments and rationale.

Order through the company with letter of Authorization

# The role of special access drugs in Hospital and outpatient

Many patients require specialized care due to rare diseases or the need for non-conventional treatment options. These individuals are typically managed by specialist clinics within Alberta Health, such as:

- NTM Clinic
- Metabolic Clinic
- Cystic Fibrosis Clinic
- Rare Disease Clinic

Even when admitted to hospital, these patients often remain under the care of their respective specialty clinics. As a result, they require coordinated support to ensure seamless, continuous care across Alberta Health services.

Facilitating communication and coordination between Alberta Health Services and contracted outpatient pharmacies, is essential to ensure continuity of care. As these patients fall under the care of Alberta Health Services, it is critical to support a seamless transition between inpatient and outpatient treatment settings.

As a provincial team of pharmacy technicians we are committed to optimizing outpatient pharmacy services through collaboration with all aspects of health professionals and vendors. We focus on enhancing patient centered care and optimizing various outpatient programs.

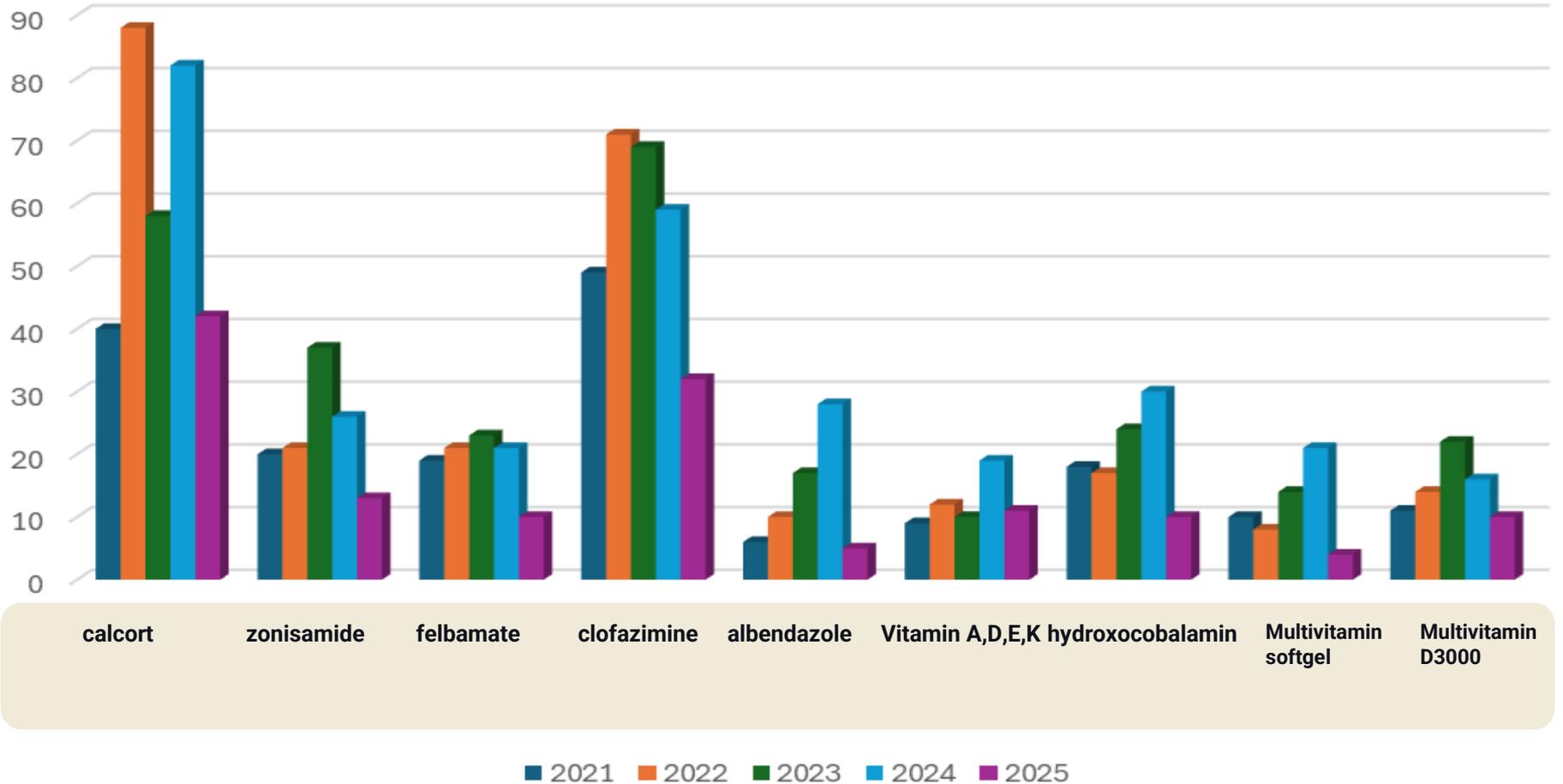
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# The role of special access drugs in Hospital and outpatient

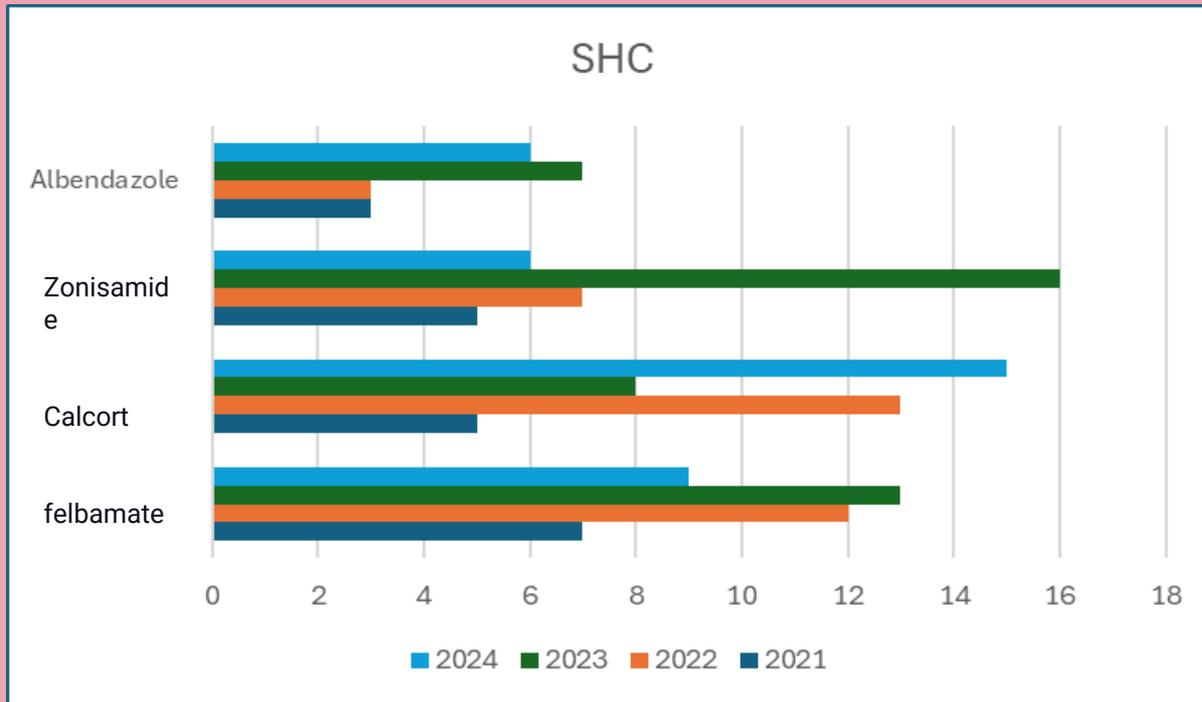
Examples of common SAP drugs that has been procured for outpatient dispense:

- calcort
- clofazimine
- Albendazole
- Multivitamine
- zonisamide

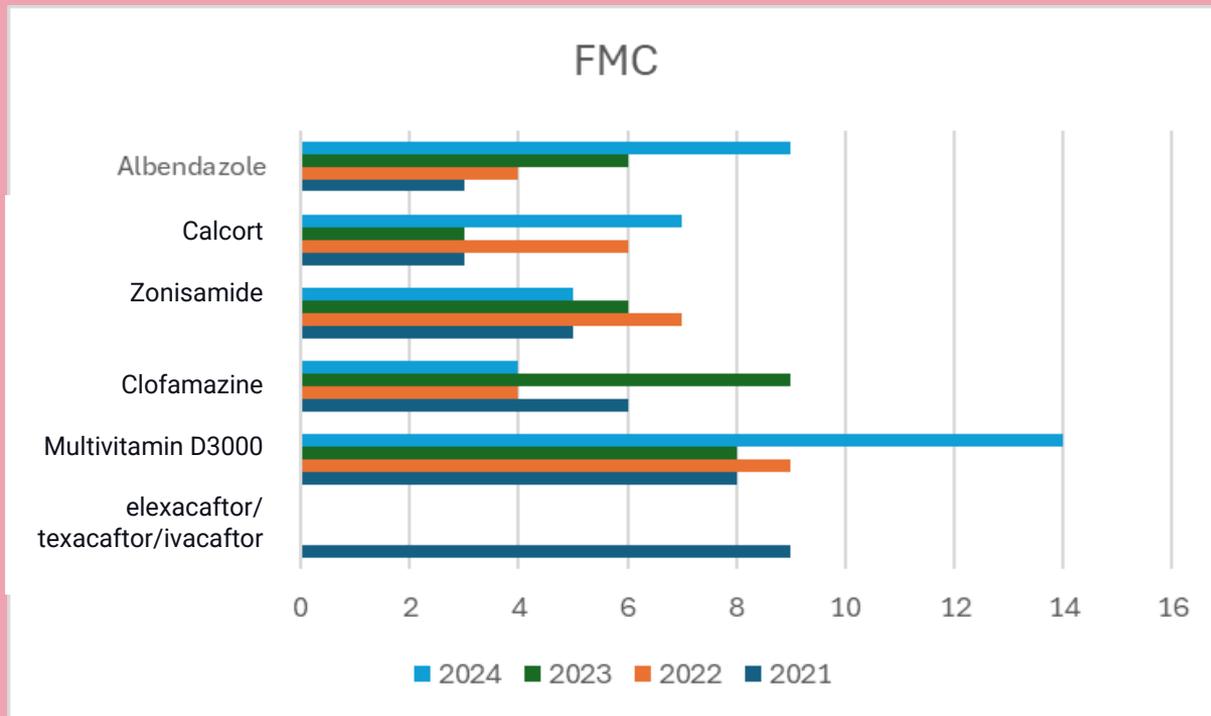
# SAP 2021-2025



# Trends



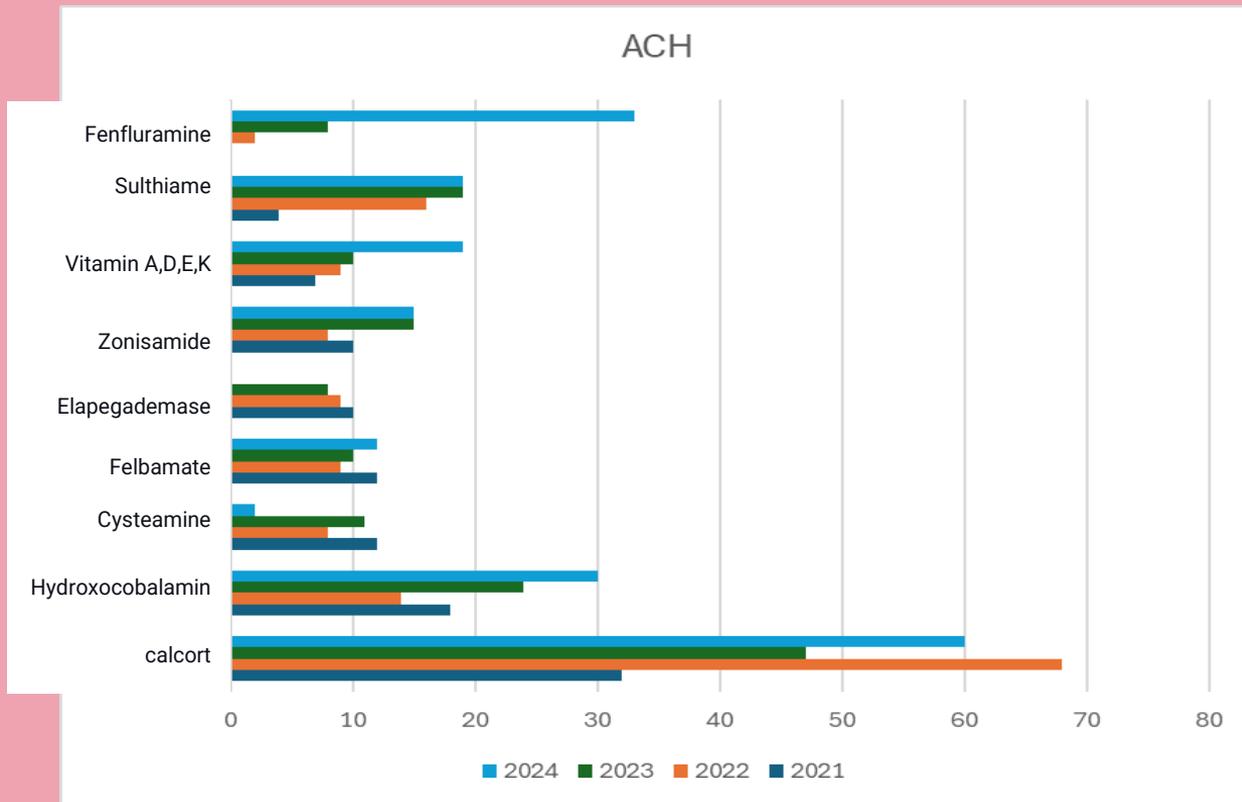
# Trends



# Trends

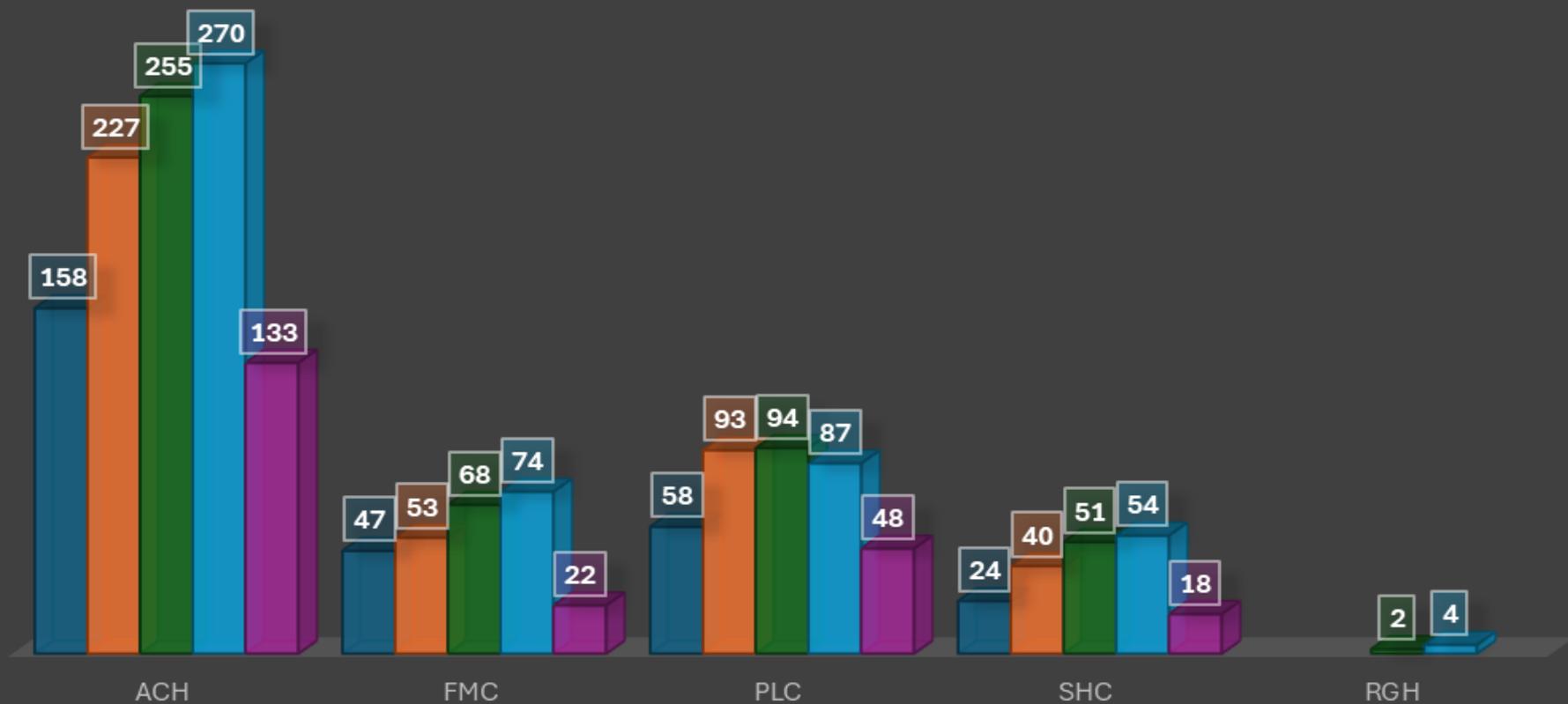


# Trends



# 2021-2025

2021 2022 2023 2024 2025



# References

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<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/8e22e2c5-ae9e-4a2b-94db-281981071f0b/resource/6dc14484-34b2-4b93-afb7-2ee3a35e39cb/download/health-phdmg-trichinosis-2021-10.pdf>

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HELLO

01

INTRO

Objective

Alberta Health

Special Access Program

Role of OPP

08

# End

Thoughts, questions?

# thank you.