

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
July 01, 2020 to Sept 30, 2020

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended Sept 30, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of Sept 2020** there were **11152** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 247 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 246 from the same period in 2019**.
- During the **third quarter** of 2020, an increase of 63 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increase by 184.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 133 on the General Register, and an increase of 113 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 294 physicians during the third quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 47 physicians. Please refer to Report 4 for further explanation on the inflows and outflows that occurred during this quarter.

Gender:

- Over the last quarter, there was a **net increase of 120 males** and a **net increase of 127 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net gain of **73 males** and **173 females**.

Specialists / Non-Specialists:

- Over the **last quarter**, there was a **net increase of 250 specialists** and a **net decrease of 3 non-specialists**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **331 specialists** and a net decrease of **85 non-specialists**.
- Report 3 (Changes of Physician Resources by Specialty) outlines changes in numbers for each specialty over the past year. For information pertinent to all specialties please refer to Report 3.
- For a physician to be registered as a specialist in either family medicine or a specialty practice, the physician must provide evidence they have equivalent postgraduate training (PGT) and certification as that required by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). Physicians who don't have their Canadian credentials are eligible for the provisional register and must have sponsorship for a clinical position and to pass a practice readiness assessment to ensure they have the knowledge, skills and competency to practice medicine safely in Alberta.
- Physicians who don't meet the requirements to be registered as a specialist on the provisional register may be eligible as a non-specialist if they have completed at least 36 months of discipline-specific PGT and have specialty certification recognized by another jurisdiction.

Location by Region:

- The year-to-year comparison continues to indicate the majority of Regional Zones experienced an increase in physician resources.

Report 1

Summary of Changes in Physician Resources Report For the Period 01 Jul 2020 To 30 Sep 2020

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	10214	10151	63	0.6	10081	133	1.3
Provisional Register Conditional	938	754	184	24.4	825	113	13.7
Total in Alberta	11152	10905	247	2.3	10906	246	2.3
Sex:							
Female	4572	4445	127	2.9	4399	173	3.9
Male	6580	6460	120	1.9	6507	73	1.1
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist	9574	9324	250	2.7	9243	331	3.6
Non-Specialist	1578	1581	-3	-0.2	1663	-85	-5.1
Location:							
Airdrie	75	67	8	11.9	65	10	15.4
Brooks	23	21	2	9.5	22	1	4.5
Calgary	4580	4493	87	1.9	4450	130	2.9
Camrose	52	52			48	4	8.3
Drumheller	20	19	1	5.3	18	2	11.1
Edmonton	3666	3562	104	2.9	3596	70	1.9
Fort McMurray	94	92	2	2.2	91	3	3.3
Fort Saskatchewan	33	34	-1	-2.9	35	-2	-5.7
Grande Prairie	143	145	-2	-1.4	145	-2	-1.4
Leduc	52	51	1	2	48	4	8.3
Lethbridge	310	307	3	1	308	2	0.6
Lloydminster	50	47	3	6.4	45	5	11.1
Medicine Hat	182	177	5	2.8	185	-3	-1.6
Red Deer	297	297			293	4	1.4
Sherwood Park	139	136	3	2.2	136	3	2.2
Spruce Grove	58	56	2	3.6	56	2	3.6
St. Albert	174	173	1	0.6	168	6	3.6
Wetaskiwin	48	46	2	4.3	43	5	11.6
Other Locations	1156	1130	26	2.3	1154	2	0.2
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2817	2752	65	2.4	2783	34	1.2
U OF C	1642	1578	64	4.1	1566	76	4.9
Other Canadian	2946	2868	78	2.7	2879	67	2.3
U.S.A.	94	92	2	2.2	95	-1	-1.1
Other Locations	3653	3615	38	1.1	3583	70	2
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	525	510	15	2.9	516	9	1.7
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1657	1618	39	2.4	1637	20	1.2
Student Register	1088	958	130	13.6	1118	-30	-2.7
Total, All Registers	14422	13991	431	3.1	14177	245	1.7
Retired, out-of-province							
Retired, in-province	135	134	1	0.7	130	5	3.8
Retired, in-province	1248	1230	18	1.5	1097	151	13.8
Total Retired	1383	1364	19	1.4	1227	156	12.7

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jul 2020 To 30 Sep 2020

Code	Health Region	<u>Current Period</u>			<u>Same Period Last Year</u>			#Change	%Change
		Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total	Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total		
1	Z1 - South Zone	504	117	621	497	128	625	-4	-0.6
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4505	488	4993	4348	508	4856	137	2.8
3	Z3 - Central Zone	527	252	779	492	260	752	27	3.6
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3694	502	4196	3577	536	4113	83	2.0
5	Z5 - North Zone	335	218	553	320	229	549	4	0.7
	Totals	9565	1577	11142	9234	1661	10895	247	2.3

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2020 To 30 Sep 2020

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Addiction Medicine			1				1
Adolescent Medicine	1						1
Anatomical Pathology	161	10		1	5	4	165
Anesthesiology	450	31	1	3	19	10	460
Cardiac Surgery	19	1				1	20
Cardiology	180	7	6	3	7	3	183
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8						8
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	25	2	2			4	29
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	23	2			1	1	24
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	2	1				1	3
Community Medicine	20	2			2		20
Critical Care Medicine	129	4	5	1	2	6	135
Dermatology	67	7			1	6	73
Developmental Pediatrics	5						5
Diagnostic Radiology	409	26		3	12	11	420
Emergency Medicine	198	15	3		6	12	210
Endocrinology & Metabolism	62	3	5		4	4	66
Family Medicine	3487	219	42	21	110	130	3617
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	3		3			3	6
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	11		1		1		11
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	174	4	14		1	17	191
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	9	2	2			4	13
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	11		3		2	1	12
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	3		3			3	6
Forensic Pathology	3						3
Forensic Psychiatry	14		1			1	15
Gastroenterology	115	2	2		4		115
General Internal Medicine	11		1		1		11
General Surgery	182	19		1	9	9	191
General Surgical Oncology	1		1			1	2
Geriatric Medicine	21	1				1	22

**Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty
For the Period 01 Jul 2020 To 30 Sep 2020**

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Geriatric Psychiatry	13	1	1		1	1	14
Gynecologic Oncology	3						3
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology &	10		1	1			10
Hematological Pathology	17	1		1			17
Hematology	45	2	2		1	3	48
Infectious Diseases	62	1	6		3	4	66
Internal Medicine	429	75	1	3	56	16	445
Interventional Radiology	1						1
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	10						10
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	19	2			1	1	20
Medical Microbiology	28			1	1	-2	26
Medical Oncology	60	3	2	1	2	2	62
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	43	4	1		1	4	47
Nephrology	87		5		1	4	91
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	163	13			6	7	170
Neuropathology	11	1			1		11
Neuroradiology	3		1			1	4
Neurosurgery	38	3			1	2	40
Nuclear Medicine	28		1			1	29
Obstetrics & Gynecology	253	22			13	9	262
Occupational Medicine	18	1	1	1	1		18
Ophthalmology	137	9	1	1	2	7	144
Orthopedic Surgery	195	10		1	5	4	199
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	80	3		1	6	-4	76
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	4		2		1	1	5
Pathology, General	53	5			3	2	55
Pediatric Cardiology	20				1	-1	19
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	16						16
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	9				1	-1	8

Report 3 Continued

**Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty
For the Period 01 Jul 2020 To 30 Sep 2020**

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	9		1		1		9
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	14				3	-3	11
Pediatric Oncology	1				1		
Pediatric Palliative Medicine		1					1
Pediatric Radiology	1						1
Pediatric Respiriology	4	1				1	5
Pediatric Surgery	10		1			1	11
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	453	28		2	27	-2	451
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	94	10			1	9	103
Plastic Surgery	75	3		1	4	-2	73
Psychiatry	570	35		5	19	11	581
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	24	6	1		1	6	30
Radiation Oncology	60	3	1		2	2	62
Respirology	108	7	6		1	12	120
Rheumatology	57		5	1	4		57
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	2	1				1	3
Thoracic Surgery	14						14
Urology	63	3			4	-1	62
Vascular Surgery	18		1			1	19
Total, Specialist	9243	612	137	53	363	331	9574
Total, Non-Specialist	1663	43	3	5	126	-85	1578
Total, Overall	10906	655	140	58	489	246	11152

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Jul 2020 To 30 Sep 2020

Quarter	Alberta Trained	New Other	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full	Total Inflow	Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Retired	Full to Educ	Total Outflow	Net Change
Total for the 4 Most Recent	223	343	37	46	6	655	58	98	78	11	161	1	407	248
Quarter 3 2020	142	139	4	9	0	294	13	4	5	3	22	0	47	247
Quarter 2 2020	31	66	7	9	3	116	2	3	3	2	11	0	21	95
Quarter 1 2020	30	80	16	3	3	132	12	82	62	5	106	1	268	-136
Quarter 4 2019	20	58	10	25	0	113	31	9	8	1	22	0	71	42
Quarter 3 2019	145	162	11	10	0	328	5	2	3	1	10	0	21	307

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Jul 2020 To 30 Sep 2020

Place of Graduation	New	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full	Inflow Total	Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Retired	Full to Educ	Outflow Total	Net Change	New Cert	Total Change
Non-Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	1				1								1	-1	
Alberta U OF C	2				2								2		2
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0					1		1	-1		-1
Ontario					0									-1	-1
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	8				8		1		3	2		6	2	-5	-3
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	11				11		1		3	3		7	4	-7	-3
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	73	1	1		75	3		2		6		11	64	1	65
Alberta U OF C	66	1			67					5		5	62	3	65
British Columbia	23		1		24					1		1	23	1	24
Manitoba	5				5	2						2	3		3
Newfoundland	1		1		2								2		2
Nova Scotia	3				3					1		1	2		2
Ontario	35		2		37	1		1		4		6	31	3	34
Quebec	9	1	2		12	1	1	1				3	9	1	10
Saskatchewan	10				10		1					1	9		9
Foreign	44	1	1		46	6	1	1		2		10	36	7	43
USA	1		1		2								2		2
Total, Specialists	270	4	9		283	13	3	5		19		40	243	16	259
Total, Overall	281	4	9		294	13	4	5	3	22		47	247	9	256

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources Report Methodology

REPORT 1- SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN PHYSICIAN RESOURCES

This report provides an overall count of the number of physicians who are registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta by taking into account all categories of licensure.

'Current Quarter to Last Quarter' and 'Current Quarter to Same Quarter Last Year' comparisons, which are further broken down by number and percent, provide a clear outline of the changes in Physician Resources.

Distribution by gender, specialty, location and place of graduation are also included. A similar breakdown is not offered in respect of: 1) physicians on the General Register who reside out-of-province, 2) physicians on the Education Register, and 3) retired physicians.

Limitations:

Counts: The numbers reflect the physicians who maintained an active licence within the applicable quarter; it cannot be interpreted as those who are actively practising.

Location: The location counts are based on the physician's practice location, where available. Otherwise the physician's home address is used for location purposes.

Definitions:

Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:

General Register: contains the names of all physicians and osteopaths who are responsible and accountable for their medical practice, without supervision by another physician or the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta.

Provisional Register: contains the names of physicians and osteopaths who do not meet the criteria for the General Register but are in a process that once successfully completed, will qualify for the General Register.

Limited Practice Register: contains the names of physicians and osteopaths who are restricted to limited practice activities under the supervision of another physician, and are not the most responsible physician in the care of patients.

Courtesy Register: physicians on the Courtesy Register involved primarily in research (but with a defined clinical component), or teaching. Very few physicians are offered this form of licensure.

Other Categories of Licensure:

Emergency Register: physicians and osteopaths who are practicing medicine in Alberta on a temporary basis during a medical emergency or crisis

Telemedicine Register: physicians and osteopaths located outside Alberta who are practicing telemedicine pertaining to patients in Alberta.

Student Register: those undergraduates enrolled in a faculty of medicine in Alberta or enrolled in another medical school who are undertaking undergraduate medical education at a university in Alberta

Retired (In/Out of Province): physicians who have retired from the practice of medicine in Alberta. Note: Retired status is not a form of licensure.

Understanding Report 1:

Col. 1: "Current Quarter" represents the tally at the end of the quarter.

Col. 2-4: "Last Quarter" reflects the numbers at the end of the previous quarter, "# Change" is the net change between the two quarters represented, and "% Change" is the same measure, in percent. Please refer to Report 4 for the sources of this change.

Col. 5-7: Makes the same comparisons as columns 2-4, except compares the current quarter to the equivalent quarter last year (i.e., Quarter 3, 2020, is compared to Quarter 3, 2019).

REPORT 2 - PHYSICIAN RESOURCES BY ZONE

This report provides net changes by Zone for those physicians fully licensed in Alberta. Broken down to reflect both specialists and non-specialists, the report compares the current quarter to the equivalent quarter last year, resulting in a net change applicable to each Zone.

Col. 1: Alberta Health Services Zone name. The 'Other' category displayed represents fully-registered physicians who are resident in Alberta but at the time of reporting an Alberta address was not available.

Col. 2-4: "Current Quarter" reflects the number of specialists and non-specialists as well as a combined total by Zone.

Col. 5-7: "Same Quarter Last Year" reflects the same information as columns 2-4, with the exception that the information displayed is for the same quarter last year.

Col. 8-9: "Changes" compares the current quarter numbers to the equivalent quarter figures last year, "# change" is the net change between the quarters represented, and "% change" is the same measure, in percent.

REPORT 3 - CHANGES IN PHYSICIAN RESOURCES BY SPECIALTY

This report provides a year to year comparison of the inflows and outflows and illustrates how the changes documented in report 4 (Summary of Inflows/Outflows) affect the composition of specialists and non-specialists. Physicians are categorized by their most recently recognized specialty.

The numbers can be affected in one of two ways: a non-specialist can become a specialist, or a specialist can obtain a new certification. In the first instance, the non-specialist category is reduced by one, and the applicable specialty is increased. In the second instance, the physician's initial specialty is reduced by one, and the new specialty is increased by one.

Limitation:

These counts do not necessarily reflect physicians' functional area of practice, or even if they have an active clinical practice.

Definitions:

Total, This Period Last Year: The count of physicians in each specialty during the same quarter last year.

Inflow – New Registration: Includes all of the new specialists/non-specialists resulting from the inflows detailed in report 4 (new, restored, returned, etc.).

Inflow – New Certification: Physicians who were registered at the beginning of the quarter and received a new certification within this quarter.

Outflow - Left Province: (see report 4).

Outflow - Other: (all other outflows as recorded in Report 4).

Net Change – The difference between the Inflows and Outflows.

Total This Period – The count of physicians in each specialty for the current quarter.

REPORT 4 - SUMMARY OF INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS

This report indicates the *sources* of change in the total number of licensed physicians in Alberta.

Report 4 also provides a quarter-to-quarter comparison of inflows and outflows, extending back to the same quarter for the previous year. This allows us to make two analyses:

- By comparing the current quarter with the same quarter for the previous year, we assess if the change is typical for that time of year.
- We can confirm that the *sum of the net changes* for the last four quarters equals the *difference* between the number of physicians in Alberta this year and the number in Alberta last year (refer to column 6 in report 1).

NOTE: The largest swings in the numbers of physicians registered occur in the first and third quarter of each year. The first quarter (actually, January 1) is when CPSA finds out how many physicians are not planning to renew their licenses. Typically, these physicians have already left the province at some point during the year, but have waited until renewal time to inform CPSA of their departure. The third quarter (actually, July 1) is when most physicians complete their postgraduate training programs and become eligible for full licenses.

Definitions:

Inflows:

New - Alberta Trained: Newly licensed physicians whose last year of training was in Alberta.

New - Other: Physicians newly licensed in Alberta, excluding the above.

Restored: Physicians whose names were re-instated on the Register. Typically, these Physicians were voluntarily erased from the General Register or temporarily registered on the Provisional Register.

Return to Province: Physicians who maintained licensure while residing out of province, and have since returned to Alberta.

Retired to Full: Physicians who were on the Retired List and have now re-entered active practice.

Total Inflow: The sum of all inflows.

Outflows:

Left Province: Physicians who have maintained their license, but relocated out of province.

Voluntarily Erase: Physicians who no longer required their Alberta license.

Removed: Physicians who were suspended or were licensed for a limited period of time and have since been removed from the Register.

Deceased: (falls in the quarter in which we were notified, rather than the date of death).

Retired: Physicians who have retired or otherwise fully withdrawn from the practice of medicine in Alberta.

Full to Educational: Physicians who were fully-licensed, but chose not to maintain their license while they undertook additional training.

Total Outflow: The sum of all outflows

REPORT 5 - INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS BY PHYSICIANS' PLACE OF GRADUATION

This report reflects the inflows and outflows by the location physicians received their medical diplomas.

Place of graduation is broken down by non-specialist (GPs/family physicians) and specialist. The Alberta medical schools are represented individually, with the remaining Canadian medical schools represented by province. "Foreign" refers to medical schools outside Canada or the United States.

Categories: The category "New" includes both "*New - Alberta Trained*" and "*New - Other*" discussed under report 4.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact Bruce Leisen, Director, Registration, at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, bruce.leisen@cpsa.ab.ca.