

# Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:  
Oct 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020

# **Quarterly Update on Physician Resources**

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# Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended Dec 31, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Registers:

- At the **end of Dec 2020** there were **11120** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects a **decrease of 32 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 172 from the same period in 2019**.
- During the **fourth quarter** of 2020, an increase of 152 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register decrease by 184.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 211 on the General Register, and a decrease of 39 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 91 physicians during the fourth quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 123 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 decrease of 33 males** and a **net increase of 1 female**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net gain of **31 males** and **141 females**.

### Specialists / Non-Specialists:

- Over the **last quarter**, there was a **net increase of 21 specialists (17 Family Medicine Specialists/4 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 53 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **295 specialists (145 Family Medicine Specialists/150 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **123 non-specialists** (report 1).
- 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 Oct 2020 To 31 Dec 2020

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	10366	10214	152	1.5	10155	211	2.1	
Provisional Register Conditional	754	938	-184	-19.6	793	-39	-4.9	
<b>Total in Alberta</b>	<b>11120</b>	<b>11152</b>	<b>-32</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>10948</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>1.6</b>	
Sex:								
Female	4573	4572	1		4432	141	3.2	
Male	6547	6580	-33	-0.5	6516	31	0.5	
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5722	5718	4	0.1	5572	150	2.7	
Specialist - Family Medicine	3873	3856	17	0.4	3728	145	3.9	
Non-Specialist	1525	1578	-53	-3.4	1648	-123	-7.5	
Location:								
Airdrie	73	75	-2	-2.7	68	5	7.4	
Brooks	21	23	-2	-8.7	22	-1	-4.5	
Calgary	4567	4580	-13	-0.3	4477	90	2	
Camrose	52	52			50	2	4	
Drumheller	20	20			18	2	11.1	
Edmonton	3656	3666	-10	-0.3	3598	58	1.6	
Fort McMurray	93	94	-1	-1.1	93			
Fort Saskatchewan	36	33	3	9.1	36			
Grande Prairie	142	143	-1	-0.7	146	-4	-2.7	
Leduc	49	52	-3	-5.8	48	1	2.1	
Lethbridge	302	310	-8	-2.6	316	-14	-4.4	
Lloydminster	47	50	-3	-6	45	2	4.4	
Medicine Hat	181	182	-1	-0.5	183	-2	-1.1	
Red Deer	299	297	2	0.7	293	6	2	
Sherwood Park	142	139	3	2.2	136	6	4.4	
Spruce Grove	58	58			59	-1	-1.7	
St. Albert	176	174	2	1.1	169	7	4.1	
Wetaskiwin	48	48			45	3	6.7	
Other Locations	1158	1156	2	0.2	1146	12	1	
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2804	2817	-13	-0.5	2785	19	0.7	
U OF C	1642	1642			1570	72	4.6	
Other Canadian	2933	2946	-13	-0.4	2888	45	1.6	
U.S.A.	95	94	1	1.1	95			
Other Locations	3646	3653	-7	-0.2	3610	36	1	
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	573	525	48	9.1	533	40	7.5	
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1626	1657	-31	-1.9	1602	24	1.5	
Student Register	1128	1088	40	3.7	1132	-4	-0.4	
<b>Total, All Registers</b>	<b>14447</b>	<b>14422</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>14215</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1.6</b>	
Retired, out-of-province								
Retired, out-of-province	136	135	1	0.7	132	4	3	
Retired, in-province	1283	1248	35	2.8	1114	169	15.2	
<b>Total Retired</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>13.9</b>	

## Report 2

### Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Oct 2020 To 31 Dec 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	494	113	607	503	127	630	-23	-3.7
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4522	466	4988	4380	504	4884	104	2.1
3	Z3 - Central Zone	526	251	777	495	258	753	24	3.2
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3710	483	4193	3593	528	4121	72	1.7
5	Z5 - North Zone	335	211	546	320	229	549	-3	-0.5
	Totals	9587	1524	11111	9291	1646	10937	174	1.6

### Report 3

## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2020 To 31 Dec 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	160	9		2	3	4	164
Anesthesiology	452	27		3	22	2	454
Cardiac Surgery	19	1				1	20
Cardiology	182	8	6	3	7	4	186
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8						8
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	27	3				3	30
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	23	2	1		1	2	25
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	2	1				1	3
Community Medicine	20	2			2		20
Critical Care Medicine	128	5	4		2	7	135
Dermatology	69	7			1	6	75
Developmental Pediatrics	5						5
Diagnostic Radiology	412	24		5	11	8	420
Emergency Medicine	197	14	4	1	5	12	209
Endocrinology & Metabolism	64	3	3		5	1	65
Family Medicine	3505	208	66	37	124	113	3618
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	4		2			2	6
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	11		2			2	13
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	179	2	20	2	1	19	198
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)			1				1
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	11	1	3			4	15
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	13		4		2	2	15
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	5		2			2	7
Forensic Pathology	3						3
Forensic Psychiatry	14		1			1	15
Gastroenterology	116	2	2		3	1	117
General Internal Medicine	11		1		1		11
General Surgery	181	18		1	7	10	191
General Surgical Oncology	2						2

## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2020 To 31 Dec 2020

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Geriatric Medicine	21	2				2	23
Geriatric Psychiatry	14	1	1	1	1		14
Gynecologic Oncology	3						3
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Hematological Pathology	11			1		-1	10
Hematology	16	2				2	18
Hematology	45	2	3		1	4	49
Infectious Diseases	66	1	5		3	3	69
Internal Medicine	416	77	2	2	47	29	445
Interventional Radiology	1						1
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	10						10
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20	1			1		20
Medical Microbiology	28			1	1	-2	26
Medical Oncology	61	3	1	1	2	1	62
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	44	2	1			3	47
Nephrology	89	1	4			5	94
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	164	13		1	5	7	171
Neuropathology	11	1			1		11
Neuroradiology	3		1			1	4
Neurosurgery	39	2			1	1	40
Nuclear Medicine	29	1				1	30
Obstetrics & Gynecology	257	19			16	3	260
Occupational Medicine	19	1		1	1	-1	18
Ophthalmology	138	8	1		3	6	144
Orthopedic Surgery	195	10		1	4	5	200
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	79	4		1	7	-4	75
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	4		2		2		4
Pathology, General	53	4			2	2	55
Pediatric Cardiology	20				1	-1	19
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	16		1			1	17
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2



**Report 3 Continued**

**Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty  
For the Period 01 Oct 2020 To 31 Dec 2020**

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Gastroenterology	9				1	-1	8
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	9		1		1		9
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	14				3	-3	11
Pediatric Palliative Medicine	1						1
Pediatric Radiology	1						1
Pediatric Respiriology	4	1	1			2	6
Pediatric Surgery	11				1	-1	10
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	454	27	1	2	31	-6	448
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	96	9		2	2	5	101
Plastic Surgery	75	3		1	4	-2	73
Psychiatry	570	34		5	19	10	580
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	25	6	1	2	1	4	29
Radiation Oncology	60	2	1		1	2	62
Respirology	113	7	3		2	8	121
Rheumatology	58	1	4	1	3	1	59
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		18
Total, Specialist	9300	586	158	77	370	295	9595
Total, Non-Specialist	1648	47	2	10	162	-123	1525
Total, Overall	10948	633	160	87	532	172	11120

## Report 4

### Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Oct 2020 To 31 Dec 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	336	30	37	7	633	87	106	78	11	176	1	459	174
Quarter 4 2020	20	51	3	16	1	91	60	17	8	1	37	0	123	-32
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

## Report 5

### Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Oct 2020 To 31 Dec 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
<b>Non-Specialists</b>															
-----															
Alberta U OF A					0					7		7	-7	-7	-14
Alberta U OF C					0									-2	-2
British Columbia					0									-2	-2
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0									-1	-1
Nova Scotia					0					1		1	-1		-1
Ontario					0			1				1	-1		-1
Quebec					0					1		1	-1		-1
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	9		3		12	9	2	1		5		17	-5	-26	-31
USA					0										
<b>Total, Non-Specialists</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>-53</b>
<b>Specialists</b>															
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Alberta U OF A	12		1	1	14	9	2	2		7		20	-6	19	13
Alberta U OF C	8	1	1		10	1	2	1		6		10		10	10
British Columbia	4				4	10	5			1		16	-12	4	-8
Manitoba	4				4	2	2	1		2		7	-3	1	-2
Newfoundland					0									1	1
Nova Scotia	1				1	3						3	-2		-2
Ontario	10	1	2		13	7	2	2	1	2		14	-1	1	
Quebec	5		1		6	2				1		3	3	2	5
Saskatchewan	3	1	1		5								5	1	6
Foreign	15		6		21	17	2			4		23	-2	32	30
USA			1		1								1		1
<b>Total, Specialists</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>96</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Total, Overall</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>-32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>

# 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 license within the applicable quarter; it cannot be interpreted as those who are actively practicing.

*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 4, 2020, is compared to Quarter 4, 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:**

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