

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
Jan 01, 2021 to Mar 31, 2021

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended Mar 31, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of Mar 2021** there were **10,866** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects a **decrease of 254 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 54 from the same period in 2020**.
- During the **first quarter** of 2021, a decrease of 143 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register decrease by 111.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 162 on the General Register, and a decrease of 108 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 98 physicians during the first quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 352 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 178 males** and a **net decrease of 76 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net decrease of **47 males** and an increase of **101 females**.

Specialists / Non-Specialists:

- Over the **last quarter**, there was a **net decrease of 196 specialists (65 Family Medicine Specialists/131 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 58 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **172 specialists (97 Family Medicine Specialists/75 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **118 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 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 Jan 2021 To 31 Mar 2021

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	10223	10366	-143	-1.4	10061	162		1.6
Provisional Register Conditional	643	754	-111	-14.7	751	-108		-14.4
Total in Alberta	10866	11120	-254	-2.3	10812	54		0.5
Sex:								
Female	4497	4573	-76	-1.7	4396	101		2.3
Male	6369	6547	-178	-2.7	6416	-47		-0.7
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5591	5722	-131	-2.3	5516	75		1.4
Specialist - Family Medicine	3808	3873	-65	-1.7	3711	97		2.6
Non-Specialist	1467	1525	-58	-3.8	1585	-118		-7.4
Location:								
Airdrie	71	73	-2	-2.7	69	2		2.9
Brooks	22	21	1	4.8	21	1		4.8
Calgary	4454	4567	-113	-2.5	4449	5		0.1
Camrose	50	52	-2	-3.8	51	-1		-2
Drumheller	20	20			19	1		5.3
Edmonton	3595	3656	-61	-1.7	3536	59		1.7
Fort McMurray	90	93	-3	-3.2	91	-1		-1.1
Fort Saskatchewan	33	36	-3	-8.3	35	-2		-5.7
Grande Prairie	140	142	-2	-1.4	143	-3		-2.1
Leduc	47	49	-2	-4.1	50	-3		-6
Lethbridge	293	302	-9	-3	304	-11		-3.6
Lloydminster	47	47			46	1		2.2
Medicine Hat	187	181	6	3.3	175	12		6.9
Red Deer	294	299	-5	-1.7	294			
Sherwood Park	137	142	-5	-3.5	136	1		0.7
Spruce Grove	56	58	-2	-3.4	56			
St. Albert	172	176	-4	-2.3	172			
Wetaskiwin	43	48	-5	-10.4	46	-3		-6.5
Other Locations	1115	1158	-43	-3.7	1119	-4		-0.4
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2739	2804	-65	-2.3	2743	-4		-0.1
U OF C	1619	1642	-23	-1.4	1563	56		3.6
Other Canadian	2829	2933	-104	-3.5	2832	-3		-0.1
U.S.A.	94	95	-1	-1.1	93	1		1.1
Other Locations	3585	3646	-61	-1.7	3581	4		0.1
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	508	573	-65	-11.3	493	15		3
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1604	1626	-22	-1.4	1567	37		2.4
Student Register	1132	1128	4	0.4	1136	-4		-0.4
Total, All Registers	14110	14447	-337	-2.3	14008	102		0.7
Retired, out-of-province								
Retired, out-of-province	137	136	1	0.7	134	3		2.2
Retired, in-province	1416	1283	133	10.4	1225	191		15.6
Total Retired	1553	1419	134	9.4	1359	194		14.3

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jan 2021 To 31 Mar 2021

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	483	116	599	485	118	603	-4	-0.7
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4413	453	4866	4360	485	4845	21	0.4
3	Z3 - Central Zone	513	239	752	501	254	755	-3	-0.4
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3657	457	4114	3552	505	4057	57	1.4
5	Z5 - North Zone	327	201	528	320	221	541	-13	-2.4
	Totals	9393	1466	10859	9218	1583	10801	58	0.5

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jan 2021 To 31 Mar 2021

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	158	10		2	11	-3	155
Anesthesiology	442	25		4	30	-9	433
Cardiac Surgery	19	1				1	20
Cardiology	179	7	6	4	10	-1	178
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8						8
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	29	1				1	30
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	23	1	2		1	2	25
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	3						3
Community Medicine	22				2	-2	20
Critical Care Medicine	130	5	6		7	4	134
Dermatology	70	5			1	4	74
Developmental Pediatrics	5						5
Diagnostic Radiology	414	16		6	24	-14	400
Emergency Medicine	197	16	2	1	4	13	210
Endocrinology & Metabolism	62	2	5		5	2	64
Family Medicine	3483	200	60	40	159	61	3544
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	4		2			2	6
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	11	1	3			4	15
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	184	3	18	2	1	18	202
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)			1				1
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	12	1	4			5	17
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)			1				1
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	11		4			4	15
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	6		1			1	7
Forensic Pathology	3						3
Forensic Psychiatry	14		1		1		14
Gastroenterology	115	2	3		3	2	117
General Internal Medicine	10		2			2	12
General Surgery	178	17		2	13	2	180

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jan 2021 To 31 Mar 2021

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	22	2				2	24
Geriatric Psychiatry	15	1		1	2	-2	13
Gynecologic Oncology	3						3
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology &	10	1				1	11
Hematological Pathology	16	2				2	18
Hematology	45	2	2			4	49
Infectious Diseases	65	1	4		1	4	69
Internal Medicine	415	72	2		55	18	433
Interventional Radiology	1						1
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	10		1			1	11
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20	1				1	21
Medical Microbiology	26						26
Medical Oncology	59	4	1	1	2	2	61
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	45	2				2	47
Nephrology	90	1	6		1	6	96
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	164	8		1	7		164
Neuropathology	10	1			1		10
Neuroradiology	3		1			1	4
Neurosurgery	39	2			1	1	40
Nuclear Medicine	29	1		2		-1	28
Obstetrics & Gynecology	252	16		1	17	-2	250
Occupational Medicine	18	1		1			18
Ophthalmology	138	8	1	1	5	3	141
Orthopedic Surgery	192	12		1	5	6	198
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	76	6		1	6	-1	75
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	5		1		1		5
Pathology, General	51	4			1	3	54
Pediatric Cardiology	19				1	-1	18
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	16		1			1	17

Report 3 Continued

**Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty
For the Period 01 Jan 2021 To 31 Mar 2021**

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8						8
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	8		1			1	9
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	11	1				1	12
Pediatric Palliative Medicine	1				1		1
Pediatric Radiology	1						1
Pediatric Respiriology	5		1			1	6
Pediatric Surgery	11		1		2	-1	10
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	439	28	1	2	25	1	440
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	97	8		3	3	2	99
Plastic Surgery	71	3			4	-1	70
Psychiatry	564	35		6	22	7	571
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	26	5	1	2	2	2	28
Radiation Oncology	60	2	1		4	-1	59
Respirology	117	4	6		7	3	120
Rheumatology	58	3	4	1	3	3	61
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14						14
Urology	59	3			1	2	61
Vascular Surgery	18		1		1		18
Total, Specialist	9227	553	159	85	453	172	9399
Total, Non-Specialist	1585	46	1	13	152	-118	1467
Total, Overall	10812	599	160	98	605	54	10866

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Jan 2021 To 31 Mar 2021

Quarter	Alberta Trained	New Othe	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	221	310	24	39	5	599	98	152	85	9	199	0	543	56
Quarter 1 2021	28	54	10	5	1	98	23	128	69	3	129	0	352	-254
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

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Jan 2021 To 31 Mar 2021

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	5		16		22	-21		-21
Alberta U OF C					0					3		3	-3		-3
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0					1		1	-1		-1
Newfoundland					0					1		1	-1		-1
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0					1		1	-1		-1
Quebec					0				1			1	-1		-1
Saskatchewan					0					1		1	-1		-1
Foreign	8	1			9	4	6	3	1	12		26	-17	-12	-29
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	8	1	1		10	4	7	8	2	35		56	-46	-12	-58
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	15			1	16	4	21	7		28		60	-44	6	-38
Alberta U OF C	13	1			14	2	10	7		15		34	-20	10	-10
British Columbia	8	2			10		17	9		4		30	-20	1	-19
Manitoba					0	1	8	2		3		14	-14	1	-13
Newfoundland	1				1		3	1				4	-3		-3
Nova Scotia	1	1			2		6	2		2		10	-8		-8
Ontario	7				7	5	23	11		8		47	-40	3	-37
Quebec	6				6		5	3		5		13	-7		-7
Saskatchewan	2				2		2	3		4		9	-7	1	-6
Foreign	19	5	4		28	6	25	16	1	24		72	-44	17	-27
USA	2				2	1	1			1		3	-1		-1
Total, Specialists	74	9	4	1	88	19	121	61	1	94		296	-208	39	-169
Total, Overall	82	10	5	1	98	23	128	69	3	129		352	-254	27	-227

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 & 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 practising 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 1, 2021, is compared to Quarter 1, 2020).

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 licence, but relocated out of province.

Voluntarily Erase: physicians who no longer required their Alberta licence.

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 licence 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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