

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
April 01, 2021 to June 30, 2021

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended June 30, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of June 2021** there were **10927** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects a **increase of 61 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 22 from the same period in 2020**.
- During the **second quarter** of 2021, a increase of 82 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register decrease by 21.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 154 on the General Register, and a decrease of 132 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 97 physicians during the second quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 36 physicians. Please refer to Report 4 for further explanation on the inflows and outflows that occurred during this quarter.
- **Definition of 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.
- **Definition of 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.

Gender:

- Over the last quarter, there was a **net increase of 28 males** and a **net increase of 33 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net decrease of **63 males** and an increase of **85 females**.

Specialists / Non-Specialists:

- CPSA follows the national specialty associations in recognizing Family Medicine as a specialty. The vast majority of Alberta family physicians in general practice are classified as specialists in Family Medicine.
- There is a separate, smaller category – less than 15% of fully registered physicians in Alberta – called Non-Specialists. This group includes any physician who has not completed the requirements to qualify as a specialist in Family Medicine or any other specialty – surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics, etc. (It does not mean “general practitioners” as opposed to specialists.)

- Over the **last quarter**, there was a **net increase of 66 specialists (23 Family Medicine Specialists/43 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 5 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **141 specialists (87 Family Medicine Specialists/54 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **119 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 indicates three of the Regional Zones experienced a decrease in physician resources.

Report 1

Summary of Changes in Physician Resources Report For the Period 01 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 2021

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Change	Same Prd Last Year#	Change%	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	10305	10223	82	0.8		10151	154	1.5
Provisional Register Conditional	622	643	-21	-3.3		754	-132	-17.5
Total in Alberta	10927	10866	61	0.6		10905	22	0.2
Sex:								
Female	4530	4497	33	0.7		4445	85	1.9
Male	6397	6369	28	0.4		6460	-63	-1
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5634	5591	43	0.8		5580	54	1
Specialist - Family Medicine	3831	3808	23	0.6		3744	87	2.3
Non-Specialist	1462	1467	-5	-0.3		1581	-119	-7.5
Location:								
Airdrie	73	71	2	2.8		67	6	9
Brooks	21	22	-1	-4.5		21		
Calgary	4486	4454	32	0.7		4493	-7	-0.2
Camrose	50	50				52	-2	-3.8
Drumheller	19	20	-1	-5		19		
Edmonton	3618	3595	23	0.6		3562	56	1.6
Fort McMurray	91	90	1	1.1		92	-1	-1.1
Fort Saskatchewan	35	33	2	6.1		34	1	2.9
Grande Prairie	140	140				145	-5	-3.4
Leduc	47	47				51	-4	-7.8
Lethbridge	292	293	-1	-0.3		307	-15	-4.9
Lloydminster	45	47	-2	-4.3		47	-2	-4.3
Medicine Hat	186	187	-1	-0.5		177	9	5.1
Red Deer	292	294	-2	-0.7		297	-5	-1.7
Sherwood Park	137	137				136	1	0.7
Spruce Grove	56	56				56		
St. Albert	172	172				173	-1	-0.6
Wetaskiwin	43	43				46	-3	-6.5
Other Locations	1124	1115	9	0.8		1130	-6	-0.5
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2742	2739	3	0.1		2752	-10	-0.4
U OF C	1631	1619	12	0.7		1578	53	3.4
Other Canadian	2849	2829	20	0.7		2868	-19	-0.7
U.S.A.	94	94				92	2	2.2
Other Locations	3611	3585	26	0.7		3615	-4	-0.1
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	524	508	16	3.1		510	14	2.7
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1686	1604	82	5.1		1618	68	4.2
Student Register	981	1132	-151	-13.3		958	23	2.4
Total, All Registers	14118	14110	8	0.1		13991	127	0.9
Retired:								
Retired, out-of-province	137	137				134	3	2.2
Retired, in-province	1401	1416	-15	-1.1		1230	171	13.9
Total Retired	1538	1553	-15	-1		1364	174	12.8

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 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	482	114	596	491	117	608	-12	-2.0
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4447	454	4901	4403	484	4887	14	0.3
3	Z3 - Central Zone	511	239	750	512	253	765	-15	-2.0
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3685	453	4138	3580	503	4083	55	1.3
5	Z5 - North Zone	334	201	535	330	222	552	-17	-3.1
Totals		9459	1461	10920	9316	1579	10895	25	0.2

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 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		1
Adolescent Medicine	1						1
Anatomical Pathology	161	7		1	11	-5	156
Anesthesiology	444	32		5	31	-4	440
Cardiac Surgery	19	1				1	20
Cardiology	182	6	4	4	10	-4	178
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8						8
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	29	1	1			2	31
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	132	3	7		8	2	134
Dermatology	70	6			2	4	74
Developmental Pediatrics	5						5
Diagnostic Radiology	418	15		6	26	-17	401
Emergency Medicine	198	16	1	1	3	13	211
Endocrinology & Metabolism	64	2	4		5	1	65
Family Medicine	3509	190	62	41	159	52	3561
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	6		2			2	8
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	11	1	3			4	15
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	189	5	14	2	2	15	204
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		3			3	9
Forensic Pathology	3						3
Forensic Psychiatry	15		1		1		15
Gastroenterology	115	2	2		2	2	117
General Internal Medicine	10		2			2	12
General Surgery	182	16		2	13	1	183

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty
For the Period 01 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 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			4	26
Geriatric Psychiatry	14	1		1	1	-1	13
Gynecologic Oncology	3	1				1	4
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology &	10	1				1	11
Hematological Pathology	16	3				3	19
Hematology	47	1	1			2	49
Infectious Diseases	66	1	3		2	2	68
Internal Medicine	422	65	2	1	51	15	437
Interventional Radiology	1						1
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	10		1			1	11
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20	1	1		1	1	21
Medical Microbiology	26		1			1	27
Medical Oncology	60	3	1	1	2	1	61
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	46	1				1	47
Nephrology	91	1	5		1	5	96
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	166	9		1	7	1	167
Neuropathology	11				1	-1	10
Neuroradiology	3		2			2	5
Neurosurgery	39	2			1	1	40
Nuclear Medicine	29	1		2		-1	28
Obstetrics & Gynecology	256	15		2	18	-5	251
Occupational Medicine	19			1		-1	18
Ophthalmology	139	9		1	5	3	142
Orthopedic Surgery	195	12		1	5	6	201
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	75	6		1	6	-1	74
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	5		1		1		5
Pathology, General	51	6			1	5	56
Pediatric Cardiology	19				1	-1	18
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	16		1			1	17

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 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	446	23	1	2	27	-5	441
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	97	8		3	4	1	98
Plastic Surgery	71	3			4	-1	70
Psychiatry	571	33		6	24	3	574
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	27	6		2	2	2	29
Radiation Oncology	60	3			3		60
Respirology	119	4	5		7	2	121
Rheumatology	57	5	4	1	2	6	63
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14						14
Urology	61	3			1	2	63
Vascular Surgery	18		1		1		18
Total, Specialist	9324	535	153	88	459	141	9465
Total, Non-Specialist	1581	45	3	15	152	-119	1462
Total, Overall	10905	580	156	103	611	22	10927

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 2021

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	212	300	28	34	6	580	103	160	86	10	199	0	558	22
Quarter 2 2021	22	56	11	4	4	97	7	11	4	3	11	0	36	61
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

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 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					0					4		4	-4		-4
Alberta U OF C					0									-1	-1
British Columbia	1				1								1		1
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland	1				1								1		1
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan		1			1								1		1
Foreign	7	1	1		9	2	1					3	6	-12	-6
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	9	2	1		12	2	1			4		7	5	-13	-8
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	11	2		2	15	2		1	1	3		7	8	3	11
Alberta U OF C	11	1	1		13		1					1	12	2	14
British Columbia	1				1	2	1				2	5	-4	1	-3
Manitoba	1	1			2		1					1	1		1
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia	2				2								2		2
Ontario	14	1	2		17	1	2					3	14	4	18
Quebec	1	1			2								2	1	3
Saskatchewan	3				3		1					1	2		2
Foreign	25	2		2	29		3	3	2	2		10	19	16	35
USA		1			1		1					1			

Total, Specialists	69	9	3	4	85	5	10	4	3	7	29	56	27	83
Total, Overall	78	11	4	4	97	7	11	4	3	11	36	61	14	75

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 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 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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