

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
July 01, 2021 to September 30, 2021

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of September 2021** there were **11167** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 240 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 15 from the same period in 2020**.
- During the **third quarter** of 2021, an increase of 222 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increase by 18.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 313 on the General Register, and a decrease of 298 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 286 physicians during the second quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 46 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 112 males** and a **net increase of 126 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net decrease of **71 males** and an increase of **84 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 262 specialists (135 Family Medicine Specialists/127 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 22 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **153 specialists (110 Family Medicine Specialists/43 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **138 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 four of the Regional Zones experienced a decrease in physician resources.

Report 1

Summary of Changes in Physician Resources Report For the Period 01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sep 2021

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	10527	10305	222	2.2	10214	313	3.1
Provisional Register Conditional	640	622	18	2.9	938	-298	-31.8
Total in Alberta	11167	10927	240	2.2	11152	15	0.1
Sex:							
Female	4656	4530	126	2.8	4572	84	1.8
Male	6509	6397	112	1.8	6580	-71	-1.1
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5761	5634	127	2.3	5718	43	0.8
Specialist - Family Medicine	3966	3831	135	3.5	3856	110	2.9
Non-Specialist	1440	1462	-22	-1.5	1578	-138	-8.7
Location:							
Airdrie	76	73	3	4.1	75	1	1.3
Brooks	23	21	2	9.5	23		
Calgary	4564	4486	78	1.7	4580	-16	-0.3
Camrose	52	50	2	4	52		
Drumheller	19	19			20	-1	-5
Edmonton	3717	3618	99	2.7	3666	51	1.4
Fort McMurray	93	91	2	2.2	94	-1	-1.1
Fort Saskatchewan	35	35			33	2	6.1
Grande Prairie	143	140	3	2.1	143		
Leduc	48	47	1	2.1	52	-4	-7.7
Lethbridge	297	292	5	1.7	310	-13	-4.2
Lloydminster	45	45			50	-5	-10
Medicine Hat	187	186	1	0.5	182	5	2.7
Red Deer	298	292	6	2.1	297	1	0.3
Sherwood Park	141	137	4	2.9	139	2	1.4
Spruce Grove	61	56	5	8.9	58	3	5.2
St. Albert	174	172	2	1.2	174		
Wetaskiwin	42	43	-1	-2.3	48	-6	-12.5
Other Locations	1152	1124	28	2.5	1156	-4	-0.3
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2810	2742	68	2.5	2817	-7	-0.2
U OF C	1672	1631	41	2.5	1642	30	1.8
Other Canadian	2917	2849	68	2.4	2946	-29	-1
U.S.A.	95	94	1	1.1	94	1	1.1
Other Locations	3673	3611	62	1.7	3653	20	0.5
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	549	524	25	4.8	525	24	4.6
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1692	1686	6	0.4	1657	35	2.1
Student Register	1103	981	122	12.4	1088	15	1.4
Total, All Registers	14511	14118	393	2.8	14422	89	0.6
Retired, out-of-province							
Retired, in-province	138	137	1	0.7	135	3	2.2
	1419	1401	18	1.3	1248	171	13.7
Total Retired	1557	1538	19	1.2	1383	174	12.6

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sep 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	502	105	607	504	117	621	-14	-2.3
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4534	449	4983	4505	488	4993	-10	-0.2
3	Z3 - Central Zone	530	237	767	527	252	779	-12	-1.5
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3805	447	4252	3694	502	4196	56	1.3
5	Z5 - North Zone	349	201	550	335	218	553	-3	-0.5
	Totals	9720	1439	11159	9565	1577	11142	17	0.2

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2021 To 30 Sep 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	165	5		1	12	-8	157
Anesthesiology	460	28		5	33	-10	450
Cardiac Surgery	20						20
Cardiology	183	8	5	5	9	-1	182
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8						8
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	29	1	2			3	32
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	24		2		1	1	25
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	3						3
Community Medicine	20						20
Critical Care Medicine	135	2	5		8	-1	134
Dermatology	73	7			2	5	78
Developmental Pediatrics	5						5
Diagnostic Radiology	420	23		7	26	-10	410
Emergency Medicine	210	12	1	1	2	10	220
Endocrinology & Metabolism	66	1	4		4	1	67
Family Medicine	3617	188	90	46	155	77	3694
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	6		2			2	8
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	11	1	3			4	15
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	191	3	14	2	2	13	204
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)			1				1
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	13	1	4			5	18
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)			1				1
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	12		3			3	15
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	6	1	3			4	10
Forensic Pathology	3	1				1	4
Forensic Psychiatry	15		1		1		15
Gastroenterology	115	3	3	1	2	3	118
General Internal Medicine	11	2	1			3	14
General Surgery	191	13		2	12	-1	190

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sep 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	17	2				2	19
Hematology	48		2			2	50
Infectious Diseases	66	1	3		3	1	67
Internal Medicine	445	67	2	2	55	12	457
Interventional Radiology	1		1			1	2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	10		1			1	11
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20	1	1		2		20
Medical Microbiology	26	1	4			5	31
Medical Oncology	62	1			2	-1	61
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	47						47
Nephrology	91	1	5		1	5	96
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	170	12		1	7	4	174
Neuropathology	11				1	-1	10
Neuroradiology	4		1			1	5
Neurosurgery	40	1			2	-1	39
Nuclear Medicine	29	1		2		-1	28
Obstetrics & Gynecology	262	14		2	17	-5	257
Occupational Medicine	18						18
Ophthalmology	144	10		1	5	4	148
Orthopedic Surgery	199	10		1	6	3	202
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	76	4		1	4	-1	75
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	5		1		1		5
Pathology, General	55	2			1	1	56
Pediatric Cardiology	19				1	-1	18
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	16		2			2	18

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sep 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	9	1				1	10
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	451	23	1	1	29	-6	445
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	103	7		3	3	1	104
Plastic Surgery	73	1			3	-2	71
Psychiatry	581	36		8	23	5	586
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	30	6	1	2	2	3	33
Radiation Oncology	62	2			3	-1	61
Respirology	120	3	6		7	2	122
Rheumatology	57	7	4		2	9	66
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14						14
Urology	62	3			4	-1	61
Vascular Surgery	19				1	-1	18
Total, Specialist	9574	523	184	95	459	153	9727
Total, Non-Specialist	1578	49	3	15	175	-138	1440
Total, Overall	11152	572	187	110	634	15	11167

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sep 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	192	307	36	31	6	572	110	159	86	8	194	0	557	15
Quarter 3 2021	122	146	12	6	0	286	20	3	5	1	17	0	46	240
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

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sep 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									-1	-1
Alberta U OF C	1				1								1		1
British Columbia					0									-1	-1
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0									-1	-1
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec	1				1								1		1
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	11	2			13			1		1		2	11	-32	-21
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	13	2			15			1		1		2	13	-35	-22
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	80	1			81	6		2	1	5		14	67	5	72
Alberta U OF C	41	2			43	2				1		3	40		40
British Columbia	16		1		17	2	1			1		4	13	1	14
Manitoba	9		1		10					1		1	9		9
Newfoundland	2				2								2	2	4
Nova Scotia	5				5	1	1					2	3	1	4
Ontario	31	4	1		36	5	1			2		8	28	3	31
Quebec	7		1		8	2				2		4	4		4
Saskatchewan	8	1			9					1		1	8	1	9
Foreign	54	2	2		58	2		2		2		6	52	34	86
USA	2				2					1		1	1		1
Total, Specialists	255	10	6		271	20	3	4	1	16		44	227	47	274
Total, Overall	268	12	6		286	20	3	5	1	17		46	240	12	252

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 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 3, 2021, is compared to Quarter 3, 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 licences. 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 licences.

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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