

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
April 01, 2023 to June 30, 2023

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended June 30, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of June 2023** there were **11260** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 128 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 191 from the same period in 2022**.
- During the **second quarter** of 2023, an increase of 124 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increased by 4.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 218 on the General Register, and a decrease of 27 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 146 physicians during the second quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 18 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 62 males** and a **net increase of 63 females, and an increase of 3 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **85 males** and an increase of **80 females, and 26 undisclosed**.

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 124 specialists (increase of 47 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 77 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net increase of 4 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **250 specialists (157 Family Medicine Specialists/93 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **59 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:

- Please refer to Report 2 for changes in physician resources by zone.

Report 1

Summary of Changes in Physician Resources Report For the Period 01 Apr 2023 To 30 Jun 2023

	Current Period	Last Period	# Change	% Change	Same Prd Last Year	# Change	% Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	10826	10702	124	1.2	10608	218	2.1
Provisional Register Conditional	434	430	4	0.9	461	-27	-5.9
Total in Alberta	11260	11132	128	1.1	11069	191	1.7
Sex:							
Female	4712	4649	63	1.4	4632	80	1.7
Male	6496	6434	62	1	6411	85	1.3
Unknown	52	49	3	6.1	26	26	100
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5793	5716	77	1.3	5700	93	1.6
Specialist - Family Medicine	4206	4159	47	1.1	4049	157	3.9
Non-Specialist	1261	1257	4	0.3	1320	-59	-4.5
Location:							
Airdrie	76	76			77	-1	-1.3
Brooks	22	22			22		
Calgary	4671	4626	45	1	4555	116	2.5
Camrose	54	54			49	5	10.2
Drumheller	18	18			19	-1	-5.3
Edmonton	3659	3630	29	0.8	3672	-13	-0.4
Fort McMurray	100	99	1	1	92	8	8.7
Fort Saskatchewan	32	32			30	2	6.7
Grande Prairie	144	139	5	3.6	140	4	2.9
Leduc	58	57	1	1.8	52	6	11.5
Lethbridge	279	275	4	1.5	278	1	0.4
Lloydminster	46	44	2	4.5	43	3	7
Medicine Hat	178	176	2	1.1	179	-1	-0.6
Red Deer	323	319	4	1.3	303	20	6.6
Sherwood Park	140	137	3	2.2	133	7	5.3
Spruce Grove	64	65	-1	-1.5	67	-3	-4.5
St. Albert	188	182	6	3.3	178	10	5.6
Wetaskiwin	42	43	-1	-2.3	45	-3	-6.7
Other Locations	1166	1138	28	2.5	1135	31	2.7
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2762	2747	15	0.5	2777	-15	-0.5
U OF C	1693	1674	19	1.1	1662	31	1.9
Other Canadian	2897	2864	33	1.2	2873	24	0.8
U.S.A.	91	90	1	1.1	93	-2	-2.2
Other Locations	3817	3757	60	1.6	3664	153	4.2
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	559	548	11	2	600	-41	-6.8
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1680	1625	55	3.4	1721	-41	-2.4
Student Register	995	1135	-140	-12.3	982	13	1.3
Total, All Registers	14494	14440	54	0.4	14372	122	0.8
Retired, out-of-province							
Retired, out-of-province	147	147			143	4	2.8
Retired, in-province							
Retired, in-province	1724	1721	3	0.2	1595	129	8.1
Total Retired	1871	1868	3	0.2	1738	133	7.7

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Apr 2023 To 30 Jun 2023

Code	Health Region	<u>Current Period</u>			<u>Same Period Last Year</u>			#Change	%Change
		Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total	Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total		
1Z1	- South Zone	488	88	576	490	80	570	6	1.1
2Z2	- Calgary Zone	4712	392	5104	4560	416	4976	128	2.6
3Z3	- Central Zone	574	215	789	539	221	760	29	3.8
4Z4	- Edmonton Zone	3841	374	4215	3796	412	4208	7	0.2
5Z5	- North Zone	376	191	567	355	190	545	22	4.0
	Totals	9991	1260	11251	9740	1319	11059	192	1.7

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2023 To 30 Jun 2023

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Adolescent Medicine	1						1
Anatomical Pathology	150	18		2	7	9	159
Anesthesiology	431	24		3	8	13	444
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)			1				1
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)			1				1
Cardiac Surgery	20	1				1	21
Cardiology	175	7	8	3	13	-1	174
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	7				1	-1	6
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	34	2	3		1	4	38
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	26				4	-4	22
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	3						3
Community Medicine	19	1			1		19
Critical Care Medicine	141	2	10	1	7	4	145
Dermatology	79	9			3	6	85
Developmental Pediatrics	5	1	1		1	1	6
Diagnostic Radiology	421	37			12	25	446
Emergency Medicine	217	9	2	1	9	1	218
Endocrinology & Metabolism	72		3		4	-1	71
Family Medicine	3749	274	73	30	179	138	3887
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	8		2			2	10
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	17				2	-2	15
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	215	9	8	1	7	9	224
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	5		1	1			5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	19		6	1	3	2	21
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	4		1			1	5
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	18	1	5		3	3	21
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	14	1	4	1		4	18
Forensic Pathology	5	1				1	6
Forensic Psychiatry	16	2		1		1	17
Gastroenterology	119	6	3	1	6	2	121
General Internal Medicine	19	5	2		5	2	21

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2023 To 30 Jun 2023

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Surgery	184	11		2	18	-9	175
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	25	3	2			5	30
Geriatric Psychiatry	13		1			1	14
Gynecologic Oncology	4		2			2	6
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	10	1			1		10
Hematological Pathology	20			1	1	-2	18
Hematology	51	2	1		4	-1	50
Infectious Diseases	69	2	4		4	2	71
Internal Medicine	438	69	1	2	59	9	447
Interventional Radiology	3				1	-1	2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	12		1			1	13
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20				20		
Medical Genetics and Genomics		1	20		1		20
Medical Microbiology	29	1			1		29
Medical Oncology	59	6	1		2	5	64
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	51	1	1		2		51
Nephrology	98	7	4		5	6	104
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	178	10			14	-4	174
Neuropathology	9						9
Neuroradiology	4	1	1			2	6
Neurosurgery	38	3			1	2	40
Nuclear Medicine	28	3	1		2	2	30
Obstetrics & Gynecology	248	16	1	2	22	-7	241
Occupational Medicine	17				2	-2	15
Ophthalmology	140	9		2	5	2	142
Orthopedic Surgery	201	18			11	7	208
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	74	4			3	1	75
Pain Medicine	1	1				1	2
Palliative Medicine	7		1			1	8
Pathology, General	57	1		3	5	-7	50

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2023 To 30 Jun 2023

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Cardiology	18	1	1		4	-2	16
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	19	2	4		1	5	24
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8				1	-1	7
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	11	1				1	12
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	12	1				1	13
Pediatric Radiology		1					1
Pediatric Respiriology	5				2	-2	3
Pediatric Surgery	11	2			3	-1	10
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	432	33	1	3	35	-4	428
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	102	9		1	3	5	107
Plastic Surgery	76	3		1	4	-2	74
Psychiatry	573	44	2	2	32	12	585
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	34	2	1		6	-3	31
Radiation Oncology	62	1			4	-3	59
Respirology	123	8	4	2	1	9	132
Rheumatology	66	5	1		10	-4	62
Sleep Disorder Medicine		1					1
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14				2	-2	12
Urology	58	3			2	1	59
Vascular Surgery	17	2			2		17
Total, Specialist	9749	699	190	67	572	250	9999
Total, Non-Specialist	1320	86	1	3	143	-59	1261
Total, Overall	11069	785	191	70	715	191	11260

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Apr 2023 To 30 Jun 2023

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 Four Most Recent	212	457	46	62	8	785	70	72	301	9	142	0	594	191
Quarter 2 2023	34	86	18	6	2	146	2	1	6	3	6	0	18	128
Quarter 1 2023	28	116	19	13	3	179	21	51	283	0	99	0	454	-275
Quarter 4 2022	12	89	3	31	2	137	34	12	8	3	19	0	76	61
Quarter 3 2022	138	166	6	12	1	323	13	8	4	3	18	0	46	277
Quarter 2 2022	27	87	11	1	1	127	3	5	4	0	11	0	23	104

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Apr 2023 To 30 Jun 2023

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					3		3	-3		-3
Alberta U OF C	1				1				1			1			1
British Columbia					0									1	1
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	23	1			24					1		1	23	-17	6
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	24	1			25				1	4		5	20	-16	4
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	18	4		2	24		1	3	1	1		6	18	7	25
Alberta U OF C	15	6			21			1	1			2	19	3	22
British Columbia	4	1	1		6			1				1	5		5
Manitoba	2				2								2		2
Newfoundland	1				1								1		1
Nova Scotia	2				2								2	2	4
Ontario	12	2			14								14	1	15
Quebec	6				6	1						1	5		5
Saskatchewan	3		1		4								4		4
Foreign	32	4	4		40	1		1		1		3	37	20	57
USA	1				1								1		1
Total, Specialists	96	17	6	2	121	2	1	6	2	2		13	108	33	141
Total, Overall	120	18	6	2	146	2	1	6	3	6		18	128	17	145

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 2, 2023, is compared to Quarter 2, 2022).

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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