

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
July 01, 2023 to Sept 30, 2023

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Highlights
2. Report 1 - Summary of Changes in Physician Resources
3. Report 2 - Physician Resources by Zone
4. Report 3 - Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty
5. Report 4 - Summary of Inflows and Outflows
6. Report 5 - Inflows and Outflows by Physicians' Place of Graduation
7. Methodology

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of September 2023** there were **11,608** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 348 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 262 from the same period in 2022**.
- During the **third quarter** of 2023, an increase of 333 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increased by 15.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 270 on the General Register, and a decrease of 8 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 383 physicians during the third quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 34 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 177 males** and a **net increase of 167 females, and an increase of 4 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **126 males** and an increase of **118 females, and 18 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 339 specialists (increase of 126 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 213 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net increase of 9 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **309 specialists (156 Family Medicine Specialists/153 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **47 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 Jul 2023 To 30 Sep 2023

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	11159	10826	333	3.1	10889	270	2.5	
Provisional Register Conditional	449	434	15	3.5	457	-8	-1.8	
Total in Alberta	11608	11260	348	3.1	11346	262	2.3	
Sex:								
Female	4879	4712	167	3.5	4761	118	2.5	
Male	6673	6496	177	2.7	6547	126	1.9	
Unknown	56	52	4	7.7	38	18	47.4	
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	6006	5793	213	3.7	5853	153	2.6	
Specialist - Family Medicine	4332	4206	126	3	4176	156	3.7	
Non-Specialist	1270	1261	9	0.7	1317	-47	-3.6	
Location:								
Airdrie	75	76	-1	-1.3	82	-7	-8.5	
Brooks	23	22	1	4.5	23			
Calgary	4818	4671	147	3.1	4694	124	2.6	
Camrose	57	54	3	5.6	54	3	5.6	
Drumheller	19	18	1	5.6	18	1	5.6	
Edmonton	3778	3659	119	3.3	3761	17	0.5	
Fort McMurray	101	100	1	1	95	6	6.3	
Fort Saskatchewan	32	32			29	3	10.3	
Grande Prairie	149	144	5	3.5	140	9	6.4	
Leduc	58	58			54	4	7.4	
Lethbridge	291	279	12	4.3	274	17	6.2	
Lloydminster	48	46	2	4.3	46	2	4.3	
Medicine Hat	182	178	4	2.2	177	5	2.8	
Red Deer	333	323	10	3.1	307	26	8.5	
Sherwood Park	141	140	1	0.7	138	3	2.2	
Spruce Grove	66	64	2	3.1	68	-2	-2.9	
St. Albert	193	188	5	2.7	183	10	5.5	
Wetaskiwin	42	42			45	-3	-6.7	
Other Locations	1202	1166	36	3.1	1158	44	3.8	
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2838	2762	76	2.8	2844	-6	-0.2	
U OF C	1755	1693	62	3.7	1720	35	2	
Other Canadian	3023	2897	126	4.3	2958	65	2.2	
U.S.A.	92	91	1	1.1	94	-2	-2.1	
Other Locations	3900	3817	83	2.2	3730	170	4.6	
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	567	559	8	1.4	612	-45	-7.4	
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1669	1680	-11	-0.7	1681	-12	-0.7	
Student Register	1144	995	149	15	1133	11	1	
Total, All Registers	14988	14494	494	3.4	14772	216	1.5	
Retired, out-of-province								
Retired, out-of-province	148	147	1	0.7	143	5	3.5	
Retired, in-province	1732	1724	8	0.5	1610	122	7.6	
Total Retired	1880	1871	9	0.5	1753	127	7.2	

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jul 2023 To 30 Sep 2023

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	503	98	601	487	82	569	32	5.6
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4872	391	5263	4712	413	5125	138	2.7
3	Z3 - Central Zone	595	221	816	551	226	777	39	5.0
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3975	366	4341	3902	406	4308	33	0.8
5	Z5 - North Zone	385	193	578	367	189	556	22	4.0
Totals		10330	1269	11599	10019	1316	11335	264	2.3

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2023 To 30 Sep 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	155	21		2	9	10	165
Anesthesiology	442	21	2	3	6	14	456
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)			1				1
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)	1						1
Cardiac Surgery	20	1				1	21
Cardiology	175	7	7	3	13	-2	173
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	7				1	-1	6
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	35	3	2		1	4	39
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	26	1			4	-3	23
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	3	1				1	4
Community Medicine	18	1				1	19
Critical Care Medicine	142		12	1	6	5	147
Dermatology	85	8			3	5	90
Developmental Pediatrics	6		1		1		6
Diagnostic Radiology	429	45	1		12	33	462
Emergency Medicine	225	17	3	1	9	10	235
Endocrinology & Metabolism	72	3	3		4	2	74
Family Medicine	3871	287	62	27	184	138	4009
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	8		2			2	10
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	17				2	-2	15
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	214	9	10	1	7	11	225
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	5		1	1			5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	22		3	1	2		22
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	5						5
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	17	2	6		2	6	23
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	17	1	1	1		1	18
Forensic Pathology	5	1				1	6
Forensic Psychiatry	16	2		1		1	17
Gastroenterology	123	5	2	1	8	-2	121
General Internal Medicine	23	3	1		4		23

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2023 To 30 Sep 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	189	17		1	18	-2	187
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	26	3	2			5	31
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	3	2		5		51
Infectious Diseases	69	3	4		4	3	72
Internal Medicine	460	80	2	2	61	19	479
Interventional Radiology	3				1	-1	2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	12		1			1	13
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics and Genomics	21				1	-1	20
Medical Microbiology	29	1			1		29
Medical Oncology	61	4	1		2	3	64
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	52	1	2		2	1	53
Nephrology	100	6	4		6	4	104
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	181	14			14		181
Neuropathology	9						9
Neuroradiology	4	1	1			2	6
Neurosurgery	40	4			1	3	43
Nuclear Medicine	28	5	1		2	4	32
Obstetrics & Gynecology	256	17	1	2	22	-6	250
Occupational Medicine	16				1	-1	15
Ophthalmology	139	8			4	4	143
Orthopedic Surgery	208	20			13	7	215
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	74	6			3	3	77
Pain Medicine	1	1				1	2
Palliative Medicine	7		1			1	8
Pathology, General	56	1		3	3	-5	51
Pediatric Cardiology	19		1		4	-3	16

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2023 To 30 Sep 2023

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	19	3	4		1	6	25
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8	1			1		8
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	449	35	2	2	36	-1	448
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	108	7		1	3	3	111
Plastic Surgery	75	5			3	2	77
Psychiatry	592	46	1	2	27	18	610
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	37	2			7	-5	32
Radiation Oncology	61	3			3		61
Respirology	124	9	6	1	1	13	137
Rheumatology	69	5	1		10	-4	65
Sleep Disorder Medicine		1					1
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14				2	-2	12
Urology	60	3			2	1	61
Vascular Surgery	19				2	-2	17
Total, Specialist	10029	759	160	58	551	309	10338
Total, Non-Specialist	1317	86	1	4	130	-47	1270
Total, Overall	11346	845	161	62	681	262	11608

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Jul 2023 To 30 Sep 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 4 Most Recent	212	484	82	59	8	845	62	69	310	9	132	0	582	263
Quarter 3 2023	138	193	42	9	1	383	5	5	13	3	8	0	34	349
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

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Jul 2023 To 30 Sep 2023

Place of Graduation	New	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full	Inflow Total	Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Retired	Full to Educ	Outflo w Total	Net Change	New Cert	Total Change
Non-Specialists															

Alberta U OF A					0					3		3	-3		-3
Alberta U OF C					0									-1	-1
British Columbia					0			1				1	-1	-1	-2
Manitoba					0					1		1	-1		-1
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	23	1		1	25	1				1		2	23	-7	16
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	23	1		1	25	1		1		5		7	18	-9	9
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	78	6	1		85	1	1	2		1		5	80	2	82
Alberta U OF C	60	6	3		69	1		5		1		7	62	6	68
British Columbia	17	1	1		19		1					1	18	1	19
Manitoba	7	7	1		15								15		15
Newfoundland	3				3								3		3
Nova Scotia	5	3			8	1						1	7		7
Ontario	54	9			63		1	3				4	59	3	62
Quebec	7				7			1				1	6	1	7
Saskatchewan	18	4			22			1				2	20		20
Foreign	58	5	3		66	1	1		3	1		6	60	12	72
USA	1				1								1		1

Total, Specialists	308	41	9		358	4	5	12	3	3	27	331	25	356
Total, Overall	331	42	9	1	383	5	5	13	3	8	34	349	16	365

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 3, 2023, is compared to Quarter 3, 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:

Contact Bruce Leisen, Director, Registration, at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, bruce.leisen@cpsa.ab.ca.