

# Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:  
Oct 01, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023

# **Quarterly Update on Physician Resources**

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# Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended Dec 31, 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Registers:

- At the **end of December 2023** there were **11738** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 130 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 331 from the same period in 2022**.
- During the **fourth quarter** of 2023, an increase of 117 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increased by 13.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 322 on the General Register, and a increase of 9 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 225 physicians during the fourth quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 95 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 78 males** and a **net increase of 50 females, and an increase of 2 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **182 males** and an increase of **137 females, and 12 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 123 specialists (increase of 47 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 76 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net increase of 7 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **370 specialists (174 Family Medicine Specialists/196 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **39 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 Oct 2023 To 31 Dec 2023

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Change	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:									
General Register	11276	11159	117	1	10954	322	2.9		
Provisional Register Conditional	462	449	13	2.9	453	9	2		
<b>Total in Alberta</b>	<b>11738</b>	<b>11608</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>11407</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>2.9</b>		
Sex:									
Female	4929	4879	50	1	4792	137	2.9		
Male	6751	6673	78	1.2	6569	182	2.8		
Unknown	58	56	2	3.6	46	12	26.1		
Specialists/Non-Specialists:									
Specialist - non Family Medicine	6082	6006	76	1.3	5886	196	3.3		
Specialist - Family Medicine	4379	4332	47	1.1	4205	174	4.1		
Non-Specialist	1277	1270	7	0.6	1316	-39	-3		
Location:									
Airdrie	83	75	8	10.7	76	7	9.2		
Brooks	23	23			23				
Calgary	4837	4818	19	0.4	4737	100	2.1		
Camrose	62	57	5	8.8	54	8	14.8		
Drumheller	17	19	-2	-10.5	17				
Edmonton	3877	3778	99	2.6	3763	114	3		
Fort McMurray	105	101	4	4	95	10	10.5		
Fort Saskatchewan	39	32	7	21.9	32	7	21.9		
Grande Prairie	157	149	8	5.4	136	21	15.4		
Leduc	60	58	2	3.4	56	4	7.1		
Lethbridge	300	291	9	3.1	278	22	7.9		
Lloydminster	53	48	5	10.4	46	7	15.2		
Medicine Hat	178	182	-4	-2.2	174	4	2.3		
Red Deer	351	333	18	5.4	321	30	9.3		
Sherwood Park	139	141	-2	-1.4	137	2	1.5		
Spruce Grove	63	66	-3	-4.5	66	-3	-4.5		
St. Albert	204	193	11	5.7	184	20	10.9		
Wetaskiwin	38	42	-4	-9.5	43	-5	-11.6		
Other Locations	1152	1202	-50	-4.2	1169	-17	-1.5		
Place of Graduation:									
U OF A	2844	2838	6	0.2	2834	10	0.4		
U OF C	1763	1755	8	0.5	1717	46	2.7		
Other Canadian	3049	3023	26	0.9	2986	63	2.1		
U.S.A.	92	92			93	-1	-1.1		
Other Locations	3990	3900	90	2.3	3777	213	5.6		
Other Categories of Licensure:									
General Register, out-of-province	560	567	-7	-1.2	618	-58	-9.4		
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1634	1669	-35	-2.1	1642	-8	-0.5		
Student Register	1175	1144	31	2.7	1135	40	3.5		
<b>Total, All Registers</b>	<b>15107</b>	<b>14988</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>14802</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>2.1</b>		
Retired, out-of-province	149	148	1	0.7	144	5	3.5		
Retired, in-province	1743	1732	11	0.6	1622	121	7.5		
<b>Total Retired</b>	<b>1892</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1766</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>7.1</b>		

## Report 2

### Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Oct 2023 To 31 Dec 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	494	97	591	485	83	568	23	4.0
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4906	389	5295	4756	414	5170	125	2.4
3	Z3 - Central Zone	599	221	820	567	227	794	26	3.3
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	4060	389	4449	3911	404	4315	134	3.1
5	Z5 - North Zone	392	180	572	364	187	551	21	3.8
	Totals	10451	1276	11727	10083	1315	11398	329	2.9

### Report 3

## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2023 To 31 Dec 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	158	20		2	10	8	166
Anesthesiology	441	25	2	5	7	15	456
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	1			1			
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)	1	1				1	2
Cardiac Surgery	20	1				1	21
Cardiology	181	9	3	3	14	-5	176
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	7				1	-1	6
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	37	2	1		1	2	39
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	25	3			3		25
Clinical Pharmacology	1				1		
Colorectal Surgery	3	1				1	4
Community Medicine	19						19
Critical Care Medicine	147		12	1	6	5	152
Dermatology	87	8			4	4	91
Developmental Pediatrics	6		2		1	1	7
Diagnostic Radiology	438	51	1	6	12	33	471
Emergency Medicine	225	21	3	2	7	15	240
Endocrinology & Metabolism	74	3	1		5	-1	73
Family Medicine	3898	318	62	36	197	147	4045
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	9		1			1	10
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	16				1	-1	15
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	215	10	14	4	8	12	227
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	5		1	1			5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	22	4	4	1	2	5	27
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	5		1			1	6
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	18	2	6		2	6	24
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	17		4	1		3	20
Forensic Pathology	6	1				1	7
Forensic Psychiatry	16	3		1		2	18
Gastroenterology	123	6	3		7	2	125
General Internal Medicine	22	3	4	1	3	3	25

## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2023 To 31 Dec 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	187	20		1	17	2	189
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	28	1	2			3	31
Geriatric Psychiatry	13		1			1	14
Gynecologic Oncology	5		1		1		5
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	10	1			1		10
Hematological Pathology	20	1		1	2	-2	18
Hematology	52	4	1		5		52
Histopathology		1					1
Infectious Diseases	69	4	3		3	4	73
Internal Medicine	453	79	2	4	49	28	481
Interventional Radiology	3				1	-1	2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	13						13
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics and Genomics	21				2	-2	19
Medical Microbiology	28	1				1	29
Medical Oncology	61	3	1		2	2	63
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	52	2	1		1	2	54
Nephrology	106	5	1		7	-1	105
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	180	17		1	12	4	184
Neuropathology	9				1	-1	8
Neuroradiology	5	1				1	6
Neurosurgery	40	5			1	4	44
Nuclear Medicine	29	5	1		2	4	33
Obstetrics & Gynecology	252	20	1	4	18	-1	251
Occupational Medicine	16				1	-1	15
Ophthalmology	142	8		1	4	3	145
Orthopedic Surgery	210	22		1	12	9	219
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	74	6			2	4	78
Pain Medicine	1	1				1	2
Palliative Medicine	8						8
Pathology, General	55	4	1	2	3		55



## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2023 To 31 Dec 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	19				3	-3	16
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	23	2	1		1	2	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				1	2
Pediatric Respiriology	4				1	-1	3
Pediatric Surgery	11	2			3	-1	10
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	444	41	2		32	11	455
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	107	8		1	3	4	111
Plastic Surgery	76	5			3	2	78
Psychiatry	595	47	1	1	23	24	619
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	36	2			6	-4	32
Radiation Oncology	61	3			3		61
Respirology	126	10	4		2	12	138
Rheumatology	69	4	1		8	-3	66
Sleep Disorder Medicine		1					1
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	13				1	-1	12
Urology	60	5		1	2	2	62
Vascular Surgery	19				2	-2	17
<b>Total, Specialist</b>	<b>10091</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>10461</b>
<b>Total, Non-Specialist</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-39</b>	<b>1277</b>
<b>Total, Overall</b>	<b>11407</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>11738</b>

## Report 4

### Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Oct 2023 To 31 Dec 2023

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	222	501	94	108	8	933	88	65	314*	8	126	0	601	332
Quarter 4 2023	22	106	15	80	2	225	60	8	12	2	13	0	95	130
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

\*Breakdown of the members "Removed"

- Members who did not renew permit – 118
- Members who remain registered but not currently in independent practice – 189
- Members whose locum ended – 4
- Members who were Struck/Removed from Register - 3

## Report 5

### Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Oct 2023 To 31 Dec 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
<b>Non-Specialists</b>															
-----															
Alberta U OF A	2			1	3	1				2		3			
Alberta U OF C					0										
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0									1	1
Foreign	19		6		25	2				5		7	18	-13	5
USA					0										
<b>Total, Non-Specialists</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>				<b>7</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Specialists</b>															
-----															
Alberta U OF A	7	6	6	1	20	5	2	3	1	3		14	6	7	13
Alberta U OF C	13		11		24	10	1	3		2		16	8	3	11
British Columbia	6	1	9		16	6	1	1	1			9	7	1	8
Manitoba	2	2	1		5			1				1	4	1	5
Newfoundland	2		2		4								4		4
Nova Scotia	1	1	6		8	2						2	6	1	7

Ontario	6	1	12		19	7		1			8	11	6	17
Quebec	1	1			2	6	1	1			8	-6	2	-4
Saskatchewan	3		2		5	4	1				5		3	3
Foreign	65	3	25		93	16	2	2		1	21	72	16	88
USA	1				1	1					1			
Total, Specialists	107	15	74	1	197	57	8	12	2	6	85	112	40	152
Total, Overall	128	15	80	2	225	60	8	12	2	13	95	130	28	158

# 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 4, 2023, is compared to Quarter 4, 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](mailto:bruce.leisen@cpsa.ab.ca).