

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
Apr 01, 2024 to Jun 30, 2024

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended Jun 30, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of June 2024** there were **11756** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 124 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 496 from the same period in 2023**.
- During the **second quarter** of 2024, an increase of 109 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 441 on the General Register, and a increase of 55 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 159 physicians during the second quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 35 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 58 males** and a **net increase of 66 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **228 males** and an increase of **263 females, and 5 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 111 specialists (increase of 61 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 50 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net increase of 13 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **506 specialists (229 Family Medicine Specialists/277 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **10 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.

Practice Readiness Assessment (PRA-AB):

- Physicians who do not have complete Canadian credentials, CPSA's PRA-AB is the final step of an alternate path to independent practice in Alberta and includes a two-part assessment of clinical competence, chart management and professionalism.

Report 1

Summary of Changes in Physician Resources Report For the Period 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Jun 2024

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	11267	1115	109	1	10826	441		4.1
Provisional Register Conditional	489	474	15	3.2	434	55		12.7
Total in Alberta	11756	1163	124	1.1	11260	496		4.4
Sex:								
Female	4940	4882	58	1.2	4712	228		4.8
Male	6759	6693	66	1	6496	263		4
Unknown	57	57			52	5		9.6
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	6070	6020	50	0.8	5793	277		4.8
Specialist - Family Medicine	4435	4374	61	1.4	4206	229		5.4
Non-Specialist	1251	1238	13	1.1	1261	-10		-0.8
Location:								
Airdrie	91	85	6	7.1	76	15		19.7
Brooks	25	25			22	3		13.6
Calgary	4866	4811	55	1.1	4671	195		4.2
Camrose	61	62	-1	-1.6	54	7		13
Drumheller	20	18	2	11.1	18	2		11.1
Edmonton	3787	3757	30	0.8	3659	128		3.5
Fort McMurray	104	102	2	2	100	4		4
Fort Saskatchewan	37	40	-3	-7.5	32	5		15.6
Grande Prairie	162	154	8	5.2	144	18		12.5
Leduc	58	59	-1	-1.7	58			
Lethbridge	306	303	3	1	279	27		9.7
Lloydminster	48	48			46	2		4.3
Medicine Hat	186	185	1	0.5	178	8		4.5
Red Deer	360	352	8	2.3	323	37		11.5
Sherwood Park	142	140	2	1.4	140	2		1.4
Spruce Grove	66	64	2	3.1	64	2		3.1
St. Albert	203	204	-1	-0.5	188	15		8
Wetaskiwin	43	43			42	1		2.4
Other Locations	1191	1180	11	0.9	1166	25		2.1
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2805	2802	3	0.1	2762	43		1.6
U OF C	1769	1754	15	0.9	1693	76		4.5
Other Canadian	2999	2987	12	0.4	2897	102		3.5
U.S.A.	89	88	1	1.1	91	-2		-2.2
Other Locations	4094	4001	93	2.3	3817	277		7.3
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	528	497	31	6.2	559	-31		-5.5
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1710	1612	98	6.1	1680	30		1.8
Student Register	1013	1177	-164	-13.9	995	18		1.8
Total, All Registers	15007	1491	89	0.6	14494	513		3.5
Retired, out-of-province								
Retired, out-of-province	149	149			147	2		1.4
Retired, in-province	1859	1855	4	0.2	1724	135		7.8
Total Retired	2008	2004	4	0.2	1871	137		7.3

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Jun 2024

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	505	102	607	488	88	576	31	5.4
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4957	385	5342	4712	392	5104	238	4.7
3	Z3 - Central Zone	617	231	848	574	215	789	59	7.5
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	4013	352	4365	3841	374	4215	150	3.6
5	Z5 - North Zone	401	180	581	376	191	567	14	2.5
Totals		10493	1250	11743	9991	1260	11251	492	4.4

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Jun 2024

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	159	19	1	2	11	7	166
Anesthesiology	444	35	3	4	15	19	463
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	1			1			
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)	1	1				1	2
Cardiac Surgery	21	1				1	22
Cardiology	174	13	5		12	6	180
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	6						6
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	38	1			1		38
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	22	4				4	26
Clinical Pharmacology	1				1		
Colorectal Surgery	3	1				1	4
Community Medicine	19				2	-2	17
Critical Care Medicine	145	4	9		3	10	155
Dermatology	85	7			2	5	90
Developmental Pediatrics	6		1			1	7
Diagnostic Radiology	446	43	1	8	13	22	468
Emergency Medicine	218	28	2	2	10	18	236
Endocrinology & Metabolism	71	3	3		3	3	74
Family Medicine	3887	381	47	38	182	208	4095
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	10				1	-1	9
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	15		2		1	1	16
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	224	6	17	5	10	8	232
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	5						5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	21	6	4	2	2	6	27
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	5		1			1	6
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	21	2	3		1	4	25
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	18		3	1		2	20
Forensic Pathology	6	2	1		1	2	8
Forensic Psychiatry	17	1				1	18
Gastroenterology	121	14	3		9	8	129
General Internal Medicine	21	2	6	1	1	6	27

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Jun 2024

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Surgery	175	21		2	5	14	189
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	30	1				1	31
Geriatric Psychiatry	14	3				3	17
Gynecologic Oncology	6	1			1		6
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology &	10	1				1	11
Hematological Pathology	18	1	1	1	2	-1	17
Hematology	50	3	3		4	2	52
Histopathology		1					1
Infectious Diseases	71	3	1		4		71
Internal Medicine	447	75	1	2	54	20	467
Interventional Radiology	2						2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	13						13
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics and Genomics	20				1	-1	19
Medical Microbiology	29	1				1	30
Medical Oncology	64	2			4	-2	62
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	51	6	2		4	4	55
Nephrology	104	5	3		9	-1	103
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	174	13		2	6	5	179
Neuropathology	9				1	-1	8
Neuroradiology	6						6
Neurosurgery	40	4			1	3	43
Nuclear Medicine	30	6			1	5	35
Obstetrics & Gynecology	241	26		4	16	6	247
Occupational Medicine	15						15
Ophthalmology	142	6		1	6	-1	141
Orthopedic Surgery	208	20		1	4	15	223
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	75	7			1	6	81
Pain Medicine	2				1	-1	1
Palliative Medicine	8		4			4	12
Pathology, General	50	5	1		4	2	52

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Jun 2024

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Cardiology	16						16
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	24	1	1		1	1	25
Pediatric Endocrinology	2	1				1	3
Pediatric Gastroenterology	7	1				1	8
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	12	1				1	13
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	13				2	-2	11
Pediatric Radiology	1	1				1	2
Pediatric Respiriology	3						3
Pediatric Surgery	10				1	-1	9
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	428	46	3	1	22	26	454
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	107	9		2	5	2	109
Plastic Surgery	74	5			2	3	77
Psychiatry	585	44	1	1	10	34	619
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	31	3	1		2	2	33
Radiation Oncology	59	4			1	3	62
Respirology	132	7	3		9	1	133
Rheumatology	62	8	3		4	7	69
Sleep Disorder Medicine	1						1
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3				1	-1	2
Thoracic Surgery	12						12
Urology	59	6		1	3	2	61
Vascular Surgery	17						17
Total, Specialist	9999	922	140	82	473	506	10505
Total, Non-Specialist	1261	110	6	8	118	-10	1251
Total, Overall	11260	1032	146	90	591	496	11756

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Jun 2024

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 Four Most	226	570	117	114	5	1032	90	53	262	10	120	0	535	497
Quarter 2 2024	25	110	22	2	0	159	1	4	22	3	5	0	35	124
Quarter 1 2024	41	161	38	23	2	265	24	36	215	2	94	0	371	-106
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

*Breakdown of the members "Removed"

- Members who did not renew permit – 91
- Members who remain registered but not currently in independent practice – 162
- Members who's locum ended – 5
- Members who were Struck/Removed from Register – 4

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Jun 2024

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										
Alberta U OF C					0										
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0									1	1
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	24	2			26			4		1		5	21	-11	10
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	24	2			26			4		1		5	21	-10	11
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	11	2			13			9	2			11	2	3	5
Alberta U OF C	14	6			20		1	2	1			4	16	4	20
British Columbia	1	1			2			1				1	1	2	3
Manitoba		2			2								2		2
Newfoundland	3				3								3	1	4
Nova Scotia					0			1		1		2	-2		-2
Ontario	8	2	1		11		1	3				4	7	1	8
Quebec	1				1			1				1			
Saskatchewan	2				2					1		1	1	1	2
Foreign	70	7	1		78	1	2	1		2		6	72	13	85
USA	1				1								1		1
Total, Specialists	111	20	2		133	1	4	18	3	4		30	103	25	128
Total, Overall	135	22	2		159	1	4	22	3	5		35	124	15	139

Report 6

Summary of Practice Readiness Assessments For the Period 01Apr2024 to 30Jun2024

Practice Readiness Assessment (PRA-AB)	Q2 2024	% Change	Q2 2023
Initiated	40	48.15%	27
Supervised practice assessment only	10	11.11%	9
Preliminary clinical assessment plus supervised practice assessment	30	66.67%	18
Completed Assessment & Working in Hired Location	40	100%	20

For this table, completed assessments may have been initiated in a prior year.

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, 2024, is compared to Quarter 1, 2023).

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.

REPORT 6 – PRACTICE READINESS ASSESSMENTS

Definitions

Part A: Preliminary Clinical Assessment (PCA)

Over 3 months, physician works under direct observation in the medical practice of a CPSA-approved assessor. The assessor will always be the most responsible physician. Assessor reviews clinical competence, chart management and professionalism. CPSA can end the assessment at any point if there is enough evidence to determine member will not pass. Part A could be waived based on location of medical training or specialty certification, previous experience in a Canadian setting, an appointment to a full-time academic position, or if Canadian-trained applicant that did not pass the national certification exams.

Part B: Supervised Practice Assessment (SPA)

Over 3 months, a CPSA-approved supervisor will observe member in independent practice where candidate is the most responsible physician. During this phase, member can bill Alberta Health for medical services. The supervisor will visit regularly to review charts and collect feedback from patients, colleagues and staff. CPSA can end the assessment at any point if there is enough evidence to determine member will not pass.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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