

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update: July 01, 2024 to Sept 30, 2024

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.	Report 6 – Summary of Practice Readiness Assessments

Methodology

8.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of Sept 2024** there were **12126** physicians registered on the inprovince registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 370 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 518 from the same period in 2023.**
- During the **third quarter** of 2024, an increase of 353 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increased by 17.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 461 on the General Register, and an increase of 57 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 417 physicians during the third quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 47 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 187 males** and a **net increase of 184 females, and a decrease of 1 undisclosed.**
- The year-to-year change reflected a net increase of 273 males and an increase of 256 females, and no change of 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 376 specialists (increase of 184 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 192 Non Family Medicine Specialists) and a net decrease of 6 non-specialists (report 1).
- The year-to-year change reflected an increase of 543 specialists (287 Family Medicine Specialists/256 Non Family Medicine Specialists) and a net decrease of 25 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 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024 Current Last Same Prd

	Current	Last	-	:	Same Prd		
	Period	Period	# Change %	Change	Last Year	# Change	% Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	11620	11267	353	3.1	11159	461	4.1
Provisional Register Conditional	506	489	17	3.5	449	57	12.7
Total in Alberta	12126	11756	370	3.1	11608	518	4.5
Total III Alberta	12120	11/30	370	3.1	11006	310	4.3
Sex:							
Female	5124	4940	184	3.7	4879	245	5
Male	6946	6759	187	2.8	6673	273	4.1
Unknown	56	57	-1	-1.8	56		
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist - non Family Medicine	6262	6070	192	3.2	6006	256	4.3
Specialist - Family Medicine	4619	4435	184	4.1	4332	287	6.6
Non-Specialist	1245	1251	-6	-0.5	1270	-25	-2
Location:							
Airdrie	95	91	4	4.4	75	20	26.7
Brooks	24	25	-1	-4	23	1	4.3
Calgary	5056	4866	190	3.9	4818	238	4.9
Camrose	63	61	2	3.3	57	6	10.5
Drumheller	20	20			19	1	5.3
Edmonton	3907	3787	120	3.2	3778	129	3.4
Fort McMurray	107	104	3	2.9	101	6	5.9
Fort Saskatchewan	38	37	1	2.7	32	6	18.8
Grande Prairie	165	162	3	1.9	149	16	10.7
Leduc	59	58	1	1.7	58	1	1.7
Lethbridge	313	306	7	2.3	291	22	7.6
Lloydminster	48	48			48		
Medicine Hat	187	186	1	0.5	182	5	2.7
Red Deer	368	360	8	2.2	333	35	10.5
Sherwood Park	143	142	1	0.7	141	2	1.4
Spruce Grove	68	66	2	3	66	2	3
St. Albert	206	203	3	1.5	193	13	6.7
Wetaskiwin	44	43	1	2.3	42	2	4.8
Other Locations	1215	1191	24	2	1202	13	1.1
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2885	2805	80	2.9	2838	47	1.7
U OF C	1837	1769	68	3.8	1755	82	4.7
Other Canadian	3103	2999	104	3.5	3023	80	2.6
U.S.A.	91	89	2	2.2	92	-1	-1.1
Other Locations	4210	4094	116	2.8	3900	310	7.9
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	542	528	14	2.7	567	-25	-4.4
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1728	1710	18	1.1	1669	59	3.5
Student Register	1225	1013	212	20.9	1144	81	7.1
Total, All Registers	15621	15007	614	4.1	14988	633	4.2
Retired, out-of-province	149	149			148	1	0.7
Retired, in-province	1868	1859	9	0.5	1732	136	7.9
Total Retired	2017	2008	9	0.4	1880	137	7.3

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024

			Current Period		<u>Sam</u>	<u>e Period Last Year</u>			
Code	Health Region	Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total	Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total	#Change	%Change
1	Z1 - South Zone	513	105	618	503	98	601	17	2.8
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	5160	383	5543	4872	391	5263	280	5.3
3	Z3 - Central Zone	630	239	869	595	221	816	53	6.5
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	4148	346	4494	3975	366	4341	153	3.5
5	Z5 - North Zone	417	171	588	385	193	578	10	1.7
Tota	ıls	10868	1244	12112	10330	1269	11599	513	4.4

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty

Report 3

For the Period 01 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024

	Total	T (1	T (1	0.15	0.15		Total
	This Period	Inflow	Inflow	Outflow	Outflow	Net	This
Specialty	Last Year	New Reg	New Cert	Left Prov	Other	Change	Period
Adolescent Medicine	1	1				1	2
Anatomical Pathology	165	16	1	2	11	4	169
Anesthesiology	456	46	2	4	16	28	484
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	1			1			
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)	1	1				1	2
Cardiac Surgery	21	1	1			2	23
Cardiology	173	14	8		10	12	185
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	6						6
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	39				1	-1	38
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	23	3				3	26
Clinical Pharmacology	1				1		
Colorectal Surgery	4						4
Community Medicine	19				2	-2	17
Critical Care Medicine	147	6	7	1	4	8	155
Dermatology	90	6			2	4	94
Developmental Pediatrics	6		1			1	7
Diagnostic Radiology	462	42		8	14	20	482
Emergency Medicine	235	23	2	2	11	12	247
Endocrinology & Metabolism	74		4		4		74
Family Medicine	4009	418	64	35	184	263	4272
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	10				1	-1	9
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	15		2		1	1	16
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	225	8	17	5	10	10	235
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	5	1				1	6
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia) 22	6	5	2	2	7	29
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	5		1			1	6
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	23	1	2		1	2	25
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicin	e) 18		4	1		3	21
Forensic Pathology	6	2	1		1	2	8
Forensic Psychiatry	17	1			1		17
Gastroenterology	121	13	3		8	8	129
General Internal Medicine	23	2	5	1	1	5	28

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024

	Total						Total
	This Period	Inflow	Inflow	Outflow	Outflow	Net	This
Specialty	Last Year	New Reg	New Cert	Left Prov	Other	Change	Period
General Surgery	187	16		2	5	9	196
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	31						31
Geriatric Psychiatry	14	4				4	18
Gynecologic Oncology	6	1	1		1	1	7
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology &	Infertility 10	1				1	11
Hematological Pathology	18	3	1	1	2	1	19
Hematology	51	3	2		3	2	53
Histopathology		1					1
Infectious Diseases	72	3	1		4		72
Internal Medicine	479	85		2	58	25	504
Interventional Radiology	2						2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	13						13
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics and Genomics	20	1			1		20
Medical Microbiology	29	1				1	30
Medical Oncology	64	3			4	-1	63
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	53	5	1		4	2	55
Nephrology	104	5	3		8		104
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	181	15		2	7	6	187
Neuropathology	9				1	-1	8
Neuroradiology	6						6
Neurosurgery	43	2			1	1	44
Nuclear Medicine	32	5	1		1	5	37
Obstetrics & Gynecology	250	25		4	19	2	252
Occupational Medicine	15						15
Ophthalmology	143	9		1	6	2	145
Orthopedic Surgery	215	13		2	2	9	224
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	77	9			1	8	85
Pain Medicine	2				1	-1	1
Palliative Medicine	8		4			4	12
Pathology, General	51	5	1	1	4	1	52

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
• •		New Reg	New Cere	LCICITOV	Other	Change	
Pediatric Cardiology	16						16
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	25	1	1		1	1	26
Pediatric Endocrinology	2	1			1		2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8						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 Respirology	3						3
Pediatric Surgery	10				1	-1	9
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	448	43	2	1	22	22	470
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	111	12		2	5	5	116
Plastic Surgery	77	5			3	2	79
Psychiatry	610	37	2	1	12	26	636
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	32	2	2		1	3	35
Radiation Oncology	61	3		1	1	1	62
Respirology	137	6	5		10	1	138
Rheumatology	65	7	3		4	6	71
Sleep Disorder Medicine	1						1
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3				1	-1	2
Thoracic Surgery	12	1			_	1	13
Urology	61	6		1	3	2	63
Vascular Surgery	17	ŭ		-	3	_	17
rascalar sargery	_,						-,
Total, Specialist	10338	952	160	83	486	543	10881
Total, Non-Specialist	1270	114	6	7	138	-25	1245
Total, Overall	11608	1066	166	90	624	518	12126

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows
For the Period 01 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024

	Alberta Trained	New Othe	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full		Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Retired	Full to Educ	Total Outflow	Net Change
Total for the 4 Most Recent	231	599	114	117	5	1066	90	55	*270	8	125	0	548	518
Quarter 3 2024	143	222	39	12	1	417	5	7	21	1	13	0	47	370
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

^{*}Breakdown of the members "Removed"

⁻ Members who did not renew permit - 87

⁻ Members who remain registered but not currently in independent practice - 174

⁻ 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 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024

Place of Graduation	New	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full	Inflow Total	Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Full to Retired Educ	Outflow Total	Net Change	New Cert	Total Change
Non-Specialists														
Alberta U OF A Alberta U OF C British Columbia Manitoba	1	1			1 1 0				1	1	2 1	-1	-1	-2
Newfoundland Nova Scotia Ontario Quebec Saskatchewan					0 0 0 0								-1	-1
Foreign USA	25	2			27 0		1	3		1	5	22	-25	-3
Total, Non-Specialists	26	3			29		1	3	1	3	8	21	-27	-6
Specialists														
Alberta U OF A Alberta U OF C	77 65	14 7	1	1	92 73		1	5 4		6	11 5	81 68	1 4	82 72
British Columbia Manitoba	19 6	3	2		24 6			1		2	1 2	23 4	1	24 4
Newfoundland Nova Scotia Ontario	2 10 46	1 1 3			3 11 49	4	2	4		1	11	3 11 38	1 1 8	4 12 46
Quebec Saskatchewan	9 15	1 1			10 16	1	2	4		1	1	10 15	1	11 15
Foreign USA	87 3	5	9		101	1	2 1	4		1	7 1	94 2	28	122 2
Total, Specialists	339	36	12	1	388	5	6	18		10	39	349	45	394
Total, Overall	365	39	12	1	417	5	7	21	1	13	47	370	18	388

Report 6
Summary of Practice Readiness Assessments
For the Period 01 Jul 2024 to 30 Sep 2024

Practice Readiness Assessment (PRA-AB)	Q3 2024	% Change	Q3 2023
Initiated	55	57.14%	35
Supervised practice assessment only	22	120%	10
Preliminary clinical assessment plus supervised practice assessment	33	32%	25
Completed Assessment & Working in Hired Location	35	2.94%	34

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.

Methodology: Page 1

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, 2024, is compared to Quarter 3, 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.

Methodology: Page 2

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 <u>most recently recognized</u> 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' <u>functional</u> area of practice, or even if they have an active <u>clinical</u> 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:

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

Methodology: Page 5