

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
Oct 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended Dec 31, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of Dec 2024** there were **12212** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 86 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 474 from the same period in 2023**.
- During the **fourth quarter** of 2024, an increase of 67 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increased by 19.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 411 on the General Register, and an increase of 63 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 210 physicians during the fourth quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 124 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 42 males** and a **net increase of 43 females, and an increase of 1 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **237 males** and an increase of **238 females, and decrease of 1 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 77 specialists (increase of 78 Family Medicine Specialists/decrease of 1 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net increase of 9 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **497 specialists (318 Family Medicine Specialists/179 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **23 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 Oct 2024 To 31 Dec 2024

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	11687	11620	67	0.6	11276	411	3.6
Provisional Register Conditional	525	506	19	3.8	462	63	13.6
Total in Alberta	12212	12126	86	0.7	11738	474	4
Sex:							
Female	5167	5124	43	0.8	4929	238	4.8
Male	6988	6946	42	0.6	6751	237	3.5
Unknown	57	56	1	1.8	58	-1	-1.7
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist - non Family Medicine	6261	6262	-1		6082	179	2.9
Specialist - Family Medicine	4697	4619	78	1.7	4379	318	7.3
Non-Specialist	1254	1245	9	0.7	1277	-23	-1.8
Location:							
Airdrie	99	95	4	4.2	83	16	19.3
Brooks	23	24	-1	-4.2	23		
Calgary	5124	5056	68	1.3	4837	287	5.9
Camrose	62	63	-1	-1.6	62		
Drumheller	20	20			17	3	17.6
Edmonton	3889	3907	-18	-0.5	3877	12	0.3
Fort McMurray	115	107	8	7.5	105	10	9.5
Fort Saskatchewan	40	38	2	5.3	39	1	2.6
Grande Prairie	166	165	1	0.6	157	9	5.7
Leduc	57	59	-2	-3.4	60	-3	-5
Lethbridge	310	313	-3	-1	300	10	3.3
Lloydminster	47	48	-1	-2.1	53	-6	-11.3
Medicine Hat	189	187	2	1.1	178	11	6.2
Red Deer	360	368	-8	-2.2	351	9	2.6
Sherwood Park	144	143	1	0.7	139	5	3.6
Spruce Grove	65	68	-3	-4.4	63	2	3.2
St. Albert	216	206	10	4.9	204	12	5.9
Wetaskiwin	40	44	-4	-9.1	38	2	5.3
Other Locations	1246	1215	31	2.6	1152	94	8.2
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2884	2885	-1		2844	40	1.4
U OF C	1839	1837	2	0.1	1763	76	4.3
Other Canadian	3103	3103			3049	54	1.8
U.S.A.	92	91	1	1.1	92		
Other Locations	4294	4210	84	2	3990	304	7.6
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	626	542	84	15.5	560	66	11.8
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1697	1728	-31	-1.8	1634	63	3.9
Student Register	1186	1225	-39	-3.2	1175	11	0.9
Total, All Registers	15721	15621	100	0.6	15107	614	4.1
Retired, out-of-province	148	149	-1	-0.7	149	-1	-0.7
Retired, in-province	1868	1868			1743	125	7.2
Total Retired	2016	2017	-1		1892	124	6.6

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Oct 2024 To 31 Dec 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	521	103	624	494	97	591	33	5.6
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	5233	392	5625	4906	389	5295	330	6.2
3	Z3 - Central Zone	602	244	846	599	221	820	26	3.2
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	4152	339	4491	4060	389	4449	42	0.9
5	Z5 - North Zone	438	175	613	392	180	572	41	7.2
Totals		10946	1253	12199	10451	1276	11727	472	4.0

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2024 To 31 Dec 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	1			2	3
Anatomical Pathology	166	15	8	4	13	6	172
Anesthesiology	456	45	7	11	14	27	483
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)							
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)	2						2
Cardiac Surgery	21	1	2			3	24
Cardiology	176	11	23		10	24	200
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	6						6
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	39		2		7	-5	34
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	25	1	3		2	2	27
Colorectal Surgery	4				1	-1	3
Community Medicine	19		1		3	-2	17
Critical Care Medicine	152	7	8	3	38	-26	126
Dermatology	91	6		1	3	2	93
Developmental Pediatrics	7				1	-1	6
Diagnostic Radiology	471	28	14	8	16	18	489
Emergency Medicine	240	21	8	3	18	8	248
Endocrinology & Metabolism	73	1	9	1	5	4	77
Family Medicine	4045	440	106	34	187	325	4370
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	10	1	1		2		10
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	15		2		7	-5	10
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	227	10	30	3	31	6	233
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	5	1			1		5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	27	2	8	4	8	-2	25
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	6				1	-1	5
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	24	1	2		5	-2	22
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	20		2		5	-3	17
Forensic Pathology	7	1	1		3	-1	6
Forensic Psychiatry	18	1	1	1	3	-2	16
Gastroenterology	125	13	8	1	9	11	136
General Internal Medicine	25	3	3		3	3	28
General Surgery	189	15	12	3	9	15	204

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2024 To 31 Dec 2024

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Surgical Oncology	2				1	-1	1
Geriatric Medicine	31		2		4	-2	29
Geriatric Psychiatry	14	4			5	-1	13
Gynecologic Oncology	5	1	1			2	7
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	10	1	1			2	12
Hematological Pathology	18	3	2	2	4	-1	17
Hematology	52	2	9		4	7	59
Histopathology	1						1
Infectious Diseases	73	2	10		8	4	77
Internal Medicine	481	85	28	6	101	6	487
Interventional Radiology	2						2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	13	2	1			3	16
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics and Genomics	19	1				1	20
Medical Microbiology	29	1		1	4	-4	25
Medical Oncology	63	5	1		7	-1	62
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	54	5	5		5	5	59
Nephrology	105	4	13		17		105
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	184	16	1	1	8	8	192
Neuropathology	8						8
Neuroradiology	6		2		1	1	7
Neurosurgery	44	2			1	1	45
Nuclear Medicine	33	4	2	1	14	-9	24
Obstetrics & Gynecology	251	21		1	21	-1	250
Occupational Medicine	15				4	-4	11
Ophthalmology	145	6		3	8	-5	140
Orthopedic Surgery	219	10		2	2	6	225
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	78	9		3	2	4	82
Pain Medicine	2		1		2	-1	1
Palliative Medicine	8		4		1	3	11
Pathology, General	55	2	1	2	8	-7	48
Pediatric Cardiology	16		1			1	17

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2024 To 31 Dec 2024

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	25	1	3		7	-3	22
Pediatric Endocrinology	2	1	1		1	1	3
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8						8
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	12	1	1			2	14
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	13	1			2	-1	12
Pediatric Radiology	2			1		-1	1
Pediatric Respiriology	3						3
Pediatric Surgery	10		2		1	1	11
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	455	40	17	2	35	20	475
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	111	14	2	3	5	8	119
Plastic Surgery	78	4		1	3		78
Psychiatry	619	38	13	3	18	30	649
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	32	2	3		2	3	35
Radiation Oncology	61	6		1	1	4	65
Respirology	138	5	13	1	12	5	143
Rheumatology	66	7	5		8	4	70
Sleep Disorder Medicine	1				1		
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3				2	-2	1
Thoracic Surgery	12	1	1		1	1	13
Urology	62	6			3	3	65
Vascular Surgery	17	1				1	18
Total, Specialist	10461	939	408	111	739	497	10958
Total, Non-Specialist	1277	112	8	9	134	-23	1254
Total, Overall	11738	1051	416	120	873	474	12212

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Oct 2024 To 31 Dec 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 4 Most Recent	227	621	126	74	3	1051	120	56	*272	7	122	0	577	474
Quarter 4 2024	18	128	27	37	0	210	90	9	14	1	10	0	124	86
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

*Breakdown of the members "Removed"

- Members who did not renew permit – 92
- Members who remain registered but not currently in independent practice – 173
- Members who's 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 2024 To 31 Dec 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		1			1	1						1			
Alberta U OF C					0			1				1	-1		-1
British Columbia					0									15	15
Manitoba	1				1								1	17	18
Newfoundland					0									4	4
Nova Scotia					0									10	10
Ontario					0									42	42
Quebec					0									8	8
Saskatchewan					0									27	27
Foreign	19	4	1		24	4		3		4		11	13	-1	12
USA					0									5	5
Total, Non-Specialists	20	5	1		26	5		4		4		13	13	127	140
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	12	3			15	11	2	2		1		16	-1	66	65
Alberta U OF C	6	6	2		14	6	1	1		3		11	3	39	42
British Columbia	4	3			7	11	3					14	-7	14	7
Manitoba	2		1		3	1						1	2	6	8
Newfoundland	2	1			3	2						2	1	6	7
Nova Scotia			1		1	2	1			1		4	-3	6	3
Ontario	9	3	7		19	12	1	2				15	4	46	50
Quebec	2		4		6	4						4	2	8	10
Saskatchewan		1	1		2	1		1				2		12	12
Foreign	89	3	17		109	33	1	2	1	1		38	71	67	138
USA		1	3		4	2		1				3	1	4	5
Total, Specialists	126	21	36		183	85	9	9	1	6		110	73	274	347
Total, Overall	146	26	37		209	90	9	13	1	10		123	86	401	487

Report 6
Summary of Practice Readiness Assessments
For the Period 01 Oct 2024 to 31 Dec 2024

Practice Readiness Assessment (PRA-AB)	Q4 2024	% Change	Q4 2023
Initiated	36	-7.69%	39
Supervised practice assessment only	17	6.25%	16
Preliminary clinical assessment plus supervised practice assessment	19	-17.39%	23
Completed Assessment & Working in Hired Location	41	32.26%	31

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 4, 2024, is compared to Quarter 4, 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:

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