

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
April 01, 2025, to June 30, 2025

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended June 30, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of June 2025** there were **12327** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects a **increase of 204 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 571 from the same period in 2024**.
- During the **second quarter** of 2025, a increase of 172 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register increased by 32.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 499 on the General Register, and an increase of 72 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 243 physicians during the second quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 39 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 121 males** and a **net increase of 81 females, and an increase of 2 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **309 males** and an increase of **261 females, and increase 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 180 specialists (increase of 88 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 92 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net increase of 24 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **591 specialists (375 Family Medicine Specialists/216 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **20 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 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	11766	11594	172	1.5	11267	499	4.4
Provisional Register Conditional	561	529	32	6	489	72	14.7
Total in Alberta	12327	12123	204	1.7	11756	571	4.9
Sex:							
Female	5201	5120	81	1.6	4940	261	5.3
Male	7068	6947	121	1.7	6759	309	4.6
Unknown	58	56	2	3.6	57	1	1.8
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist - non Family Medicine	6286	6194	92	1.5	6070	216	3.6
Specialist - Family Medicine	4810	4722	88	1.9	4435	375	8.5
Non-Specialist	1231	1207	24	2	1251	-20	-1.6
Location:							
Airdrie	114	112	2	1.8	91	23	25.3
Brooks	24	24			25	-1	-4
Calgary	5155	5067	88	1.7	4866	289	5.9
Camrose	64	64			61	3	4.9
Drumheller	22	21	1	4.8	20	2	10
Edmonton	3913	3862	51	1.3	3787	126	3.3
Fort McMurray	114	112	2	1.8	104	10	9.6
Fort Saskatchewan	43	42	1	2.4	37	6	16.2
Grande Prairie	170	166	4	2.4	162	8	4.9
Leduc	54	54			58	-4	-6.9
Lethbridge	311	309	2	0.6	306	5	1.6
Lloydminster	51	48	3	6.3	48	3	6.3
Medicine Hat	186	185	1	0.5	186		
Red Deer	367	359	8	2.2	360	7	1.9
Sherwood Park	146	140	6	4.3	142	4	2.8
Spruce Grove	65	65			66	-1	-1.5
St. Albert	234	228	6	2.6	203	31	15.3
Wetaskiwin	42	41	1	2.4	43	-1	-2.3
Other Locations	1252	1224	28	2.3	1191	61	5.1
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2853	2831	22	0.8	2805	48	1.7
U OF C	1811	1802	9	0.5	1769	42	2.4
Other Canadian	3071	3035	36	1.2	2999	72	2.4
U.S.A.	91	88	3	3.4	89	2	2.2
Other Locations	4501	4367	134	3.1	4094	407	9.9
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	603	569	34	6	528	75	14.2
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1665	1701	-36	-2.1	1710	-45	-2.6
Student Register	1038	1192	-154	-12.9	1013	25	2.5
Total, All Registers	15633	15585	48	0.3	15007	626	4.2
Retired, out-of-province	150	150			149	1	0.7
Retired, in-province	2012	2002	10	0.5	1859	153	8.2
Total Retired	2162	2152	10	0.5	2008	154	7.7

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

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	523	94	617	505	102	607	10	1.6
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	5289	383	5672	4957	385	5342	330	6.2
3	Z3 - Central Zone	617	244	861	617	231	848	13	1.5
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	4200	336	4536	4013	352	4365	171	3.9
5	Z5 - North Zone	455	173	628	401	180	581	47	8.1
Totals		11084	1230	12314	10493	1250	11743	571	4.9

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

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	2			3	4
Anatomical Pathology	166	12	8	3	16	1	167
Anesthesiology	463	46	6	10	29	13	476
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)							
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)	2						2
CAC (Palliative Care)			1				1
Cardiac Surgery	22		2			2	24
Cardiology	180	9	21	2	7	21	201
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	6				2	-2	4
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	38	1	4		6	-1	37
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	26	3	4		3	4	30
Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology		1	4				5
Colorectal Surgery	4				1	-1	3
Community Medicine	17		1		1		17
Critical Care Medicine	155	7	10	4	40	-27	128
Dermatology	90	9		3	6		90
Developmental Pediatrics	7				1	-1	6
Diagnostic Radiology	468	36	14	9	14	27	495
Emergency Medicine	236	26	8	2	16	16	252
Endocrinology & Metabolism	74	4	10	1	4	9	83
Family Medicine	4095	497	121	36	197	385	4480
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	9	1	3		2	2	11
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	16		2		6	-4	12
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	232	12	24	6	35	-5	227
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	5	1			1		5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	27	1	6	2	6	-1	26
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	6				1	-1	5
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	25	1	3		4		25
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	20		4		5	-1	19
Forensic Pathology	8				2	-2	6
Forensic Psychiatry	18	2	1	1	3	-1	17
Gastroenterology	129	4	10	3	7	4	133

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty

For the Period 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Internal Medicine	27	5	1		2	4	31
General Surgery	189	16	12	3	15	10	199
General Surgical Oncology	2				1	-1	1
Geriatric Medicine	31		2		4	-2	29
Geriatric Psychiatry	17	2	2		5	-1	16
Gynecologic Oncology	6		1			1	7
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	11		1			1	12
Hematological Pathology	17	3	1	1	3		17
Hematology	52	4	8		2	10	62
Histopathology	1						1
Infectious Diseases	71	2	10		8	4	75
Internal Medicine	467	93	32	7	90	28	495
Interventional Radiology	2						2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	13	2	1			3	16
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics and Genomics	19	1				1	20
Medical Microbiology	30			1	4	-5	25
Medical Oncology	62	7	3		5	5	67
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	55	2	4		2	4	59
Nephrology	103	4	12		16		103
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	179	22	1		7	16	195
Neuropathology	8						8
Neuroradiology	6	1	2		1	2	8
Neurosurgery	43	3		1		2	45
Nuclear Medicine	35	2	3	1	14	-10	25
Obstetrics & Gynecology	247	16		3	13		247
Occupational Medicine	15				4	-4	11
Ophthalmology	141	8		4	6	-2	139
Orthopedic Surgery	223	16		3	8	5	228
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	81	7		3	5	-1	80
Pain Medicine	1		1		1		1
Palliative Medicine	12		1		2	-1	11

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty

For the Period 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pathology, General	52	5	1	2	9	-5	47
Pediatric Cardiology	16	1	2		2	1	17
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	25	1	2		8	-5	20
Pediatric Endocrinology	3		1		1		3
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8				1	-1	7
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	13	2	1			3	16
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	11	2			2		11
Pediatric Radiology	2	1		1			2
Pediatric Respiriology	3						3
Pediatric Surgery	9	1	2		1	2	11
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	454	43	16	3	45	11	465
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	109	17	2	3	1	15	124
Plastic Surgery	77	6		1	7	-2	75
Psychiatry	619	48	13	6	21	34	653
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	33	1	4		2	3	36
Radiation Oncology	62	7		1	1	5	67
Respirology	133	6	14	1	9	10	143
Rheumatology	69	6	3		7	2	71
Sleep Disorder Medicine	1				1		
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	2				1	-1	1
Thoracic Surgery	12	1	1		1	1	13
Urology	61	4			1	3	64
Vascular Surgery	17	1				1	18
Total, Specialist	10505	1043	429	127	754	591	11096
Total, Non-Specialist	1251	127	5	6	146	-20	1231
Total, Overall	11756	1170	434	133	900	571	12327

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

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 Recent	218	711	153	85	3	1170	133	68	*247	6	145	0	599	571
Quarter 2 2025	29	167	32	14	1	243	4	3	21	2	9	0	39	204
Quarter 1 2025	28	194	55	22	1	300	34	49	191	2	113	0	389	-89
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

*Breakdown of the members "Removed"

- Members who did not renew permit – 72
- Members who remain registered but not currently in independent practice – 168
- Members who's locum ended – 6
- Members who were Struck/Removed from Register – 1

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

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

Alberta U OF A	2				2					1		1	1		1
Alberta U OF C					0										
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia		1			1								1		1
Ontario					0			1				1	-1		-1
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	35	2		1	38		1	1	2			4	34	-12	22
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	37	3		1	41		1	2	2	1		6	35	-12	23
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	19	6	1		26			2		3		5	21	9	30
Alberta U OF C	8	8	1		17	1	1	5		1		8	9	1	10
British Columbia	3	1			4			1		1		2	2		2
Manitoba	2	1			3			1				1	2		2
Newfoundland					0	1		1				2	-2		-2
Nova Scotia			1		1								1		1
Ontario	15	6	1		22			3				3	19	1	20
Quebec	8	1	2		11					1		1	10		10
Saskatchewan	5	1			6	1				1		2	4	1	5
Foreign	96	5	8		109	1	1	6		1		9	100	16	116
USA	3				3								3		3
Total, Specialists	159	29	14		202	4	2	19		8		33	169	28	197
Total, Overall	196	32	14	1	243	4	3	21	2	9		39	204	16	220

Report 6
Summary of Practice Readiness Assessments
For the Period 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Jun 2025

Practice Readiness Assessment (PRA-AB)	Q2 2025	% Change	Q2 2024
Initiated	68	70.00%	40
Supervised practice assessment only	28	180.00%	10
Preliminary clinical assessment plus supervised practice assessment	40	33.33%	30
Completed Assessment & Working in Hired Location	44	10.00%	40

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 2, 2025, is compared to Quarter 2, 2024).

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.