



College of
Physicians
& Surgeons
of A l b e r t a

Quarterly Update
Physician Resources In Alberta
October 01, 2011 to December 31, 2011

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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for the three months, and year, ended Dec 31, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of December 2011** there were **8045** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 52 (0.7%) from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 339 (4.4%) from the same period in 2010**.
- During the **fourth quarter** of 2011, an increase of 52 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register of remaining constant.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 326 on the General Register, an increase of 13 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in prospective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 106 physicians during the fourth quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 54 physicians. Please refer to Report 4 for further explanation on the inflows and outflows that occurred during this quarter.

Gender:

- Over the last quarter, there was a **net increase of 29 males** and a **net increase of 23 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net gain of 175 **males** and 164 **females**.

Specialists / Non-Specialists:

- Over the **last quarter**, there was a **net increase of 41 specialists** and a **net increase of 11 non-specialists**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of ***2474 specialists** and a net decrease of ***2135 non-specialists**.
- 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.
- *** - the large difference is due to Family Medicine now recognized as a specialty and those members being changed from non-specialist to specialist during this quarter.**

Location by Region:

- The year-to-year comparison continues to indicate the majority of Regional Zones experienced an increase in physician resources.

Report 1

Summary of Changes in Physician Resources Report For the Period 01 Oct 2011 To 31 Dec 2011

	Current Period	Last Period	# Change	% Change	Same Prd Last	# Change	% Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	7338	7286	52	0.7	7012	326	4.6
Provisional Register Conditional	707	707			694	13	1.9
Total in Alberta	8045	7993	52	0.7	7706	339	4.4
Sex:							
Female	2803	2780	23	0.8	2639	164	6.2
Male	5242	5213	29	0.6	5067	175	3.5
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist	6430	6389	41	0.6	3956	2474	62.5
Non-Specialist	1615	1604	11	0.7	3750	-2135	-56.9
Location:							
Airdrie	35	34	1	2.9	33	2	6.1
Brooks	18	18			18		
Calgary	3128	3101	27	0.9	2987	141	4.7
Camrose	34	34			34		
Drumheller	15	15			15		
Edmonton	2770	2757	13	0.5	2643	127	4.8
Fort McMurray	60	62	-2	-3.2	61	-1	-1.6
Fort Saskatchewan	28	26	2	7.7	25	3	12
Grande Prairie	112	111	1	0.9	108	4	3.7
Leduc	38	38			37	1	2.7
Lethbridge	215	212	3	1.4	203	12	5.9
Lloydminster	29	28	1	3.6	26	3	11.5
Medicine Hat	142	142			135	7	5.2
Red Deer	235	230	5	2.2	226	9	4
Sherwood Park	82	86	-4	-4.7	81	1	1.2
Spruce Grove	47	47			43	4	9.3
St. Albert	129	122	7	5.7	124	5	4
Wetaskiwin	31	31			31		
Other Locations	897	899	-2	-0.2	876	21	2.4
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2335	2329	6	0.3	2279	56	2.5
U OF C	1006	1004	2	0.2	949	57	6
Other Canadian	2181	2169	12	0.6	2113	68	3.2
U.S.A.	59	58	1	1.7	52	7	13.5
Other Locations	2464	2433	31	1.3	2313	151	6.5
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	396	396			400	-4	-1
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1541	1580	-39	-2.5	1464	77	5.3
Student Register	1201	1164	37	3.2	1168	33	2.8
Total, All Registers	11183	1113	50	0.4	10738	445	4.1
Retired, out-of-province							
Retired, out-of-province	92	94	-2	-2.1	94	-2	-2.1
Retired, in-province	462	464	-2	-0.4	424	38	9
Total Retired	554	558	-4	-0.7	518	36	6.9

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Oct 2011 To 31 Dec 2011

Code	Health Region	<u>Current Period</u>			<u>Same Period Last Year</u>			#Change	%Change
		Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total	Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total		
1	South Zone	347	105	452	173	260	433	19	4.4
2	Calgary Zone	2922	493	3415	1759	1498	3257	158	4.9
3	Central Zone	330	255	585	172	389	561	24	4.3
4	Edmonton Zone	2603	548	3151	1751	1260	3011	140	4.6
5	North Zone	228	214	442	101	343	444	-2	-0.5
	Totals	6430	1615	8045	3956	3750	7706	339	4.4

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2011 To 31 Dec 2011

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Anatomical Pathology	122	6		3	2	1	123
Anesthesia	347	26	1	3	10	14	361
Cardiac Surgery	8	1				1	9
Cardiology	122	8	4	1	4	7	129
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	10	2				2	12
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	11	1	1		1	1	12
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Community Medicine	35			1	2	-3	32
Critical Care Medicine	86	1	4	1	2	2	88
Dermatology	51	4			1	3	54
Diagnostic Radiology	309	23	1	3	7	14	323
Emergency Medicine	105	12		2	2	8	113
Endocrinology & Metabolism	42	2	1			3	45
Family Medicine		148	2087	6	29		2200
Family Medicine (E.M.)		3	96		1		98
Forensic Pathology		1					1
Gastroenterology	93	4	8	1	3	8	101
General Surgery	162	18	1	5	8	6	168
General Surgical Oncology	1						1
Geriatric Medicine	19						19
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology &	2						2
Hematological Pathology	8						8
Hematology	30	1	1	1	1		30
Infectious Diseases	44		1		1		44
Internal Medicine	285	46	4	4	29	16	301
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	2	2				2	4
Medical Biochemistry	1						1
Medical Genetics	13	1				1	14
Medical Microbiology	18	2				2	20
Medical Oncology	43	3	2		1	4	47
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	32	3	1		2	2	34
Nephrology	67	2	2	1	1	2	69
Neurology	109	9		3	1	5	114

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2011 To 31 Dec 2011

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Neuropathology	8				1	-1	7
Neuroradiology	1						1
Neurosurgery	36	9			2	7	43
Nuclear Medicine	20	2			1	1	21
Obstetrics & Gynecology	195	16		9	6	1	196
Occupational Medicine	18	3				3	21
Ophthalmology	116	8		2	1	5	121
Orthopedic Surgery	148	9		3	3	3	151
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	54	8			2	6	60
Pathology, General	45	3			4	-1	44
Pediatric Cardiology	14	1				1	15
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	5	1				1	6
Pediatric Endocrinology		1					1
Pediatric Gastroenterology	10	1			1		10
Pediatric General Surgery	8	1				1	9
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	1	2				2	3
Pediatric Nephrology	4						4
Pediatric Neurology	9						9
Pediatric Respiriology	1						1
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	322	25	2	2	10	15	337
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	46	5			1	4	50
Plastic Surgery	53	4		1	2	1	54
Psychiatry	432	25	2	3	9	15	447
Public Health and Preventive Medicine			2				2
Radiation Oncology	48	4	2	1	3	2	50
Respirology	73	1	1	1	1		73
Rheumatology	43	2	1	2	1		43
Thoracic Surgery	9	1	1			2	11
Urology	44	4	1		3	2	46
Vascular Surgery	14	1				1	15
Total, Specialist	3956	466	2227	59	159	2474	6430
Total, Non-Specialist	3750	113	5	12	2241	-2135	1615
Total, Overall	7706	579	2232	71	2400	339	8045

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Oct 2011 To 31 Dec 2011

Quarter	Alberta Trained	New Other	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	147	320	70	34	8	579	71	46	58	3	61	0	239	340
Quarter 4 2011	10	62	16	14	4	106	26	7	11	0	10	0	54	52
Quarter 3 2011	121	155	30	6	1	313	10	3	9	1	4	0	27	286
Quarter 2 2011	4	34	8	7	3	56	7	3	5	2	6	0	23	33
Quarter 1 2011	12	69	16	7	0	104	28	33	33	0	41	0	135	-31
Quarter 4 2010	12	58	12	15	1	98	38	6	22	1	22	0	89	9

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Oct 2011 To 31 Dec 2011

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					3		3	-2	-1	-3
Alberta U OF C					0									-1	-1
British Columbia					0			1				1	-1		-1
Manitoba					0									1	1
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	15		4	1	20	3		1				4	16	-3	13
USA	1				1			1				1			
Total, Non-Specialists	16		5	1	22	3		3		3		9	13	-4	9
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	5	3	5	3	16	3	1	2		3		9	7	7	14
Alberta U OF C	5	3			8	2	2			1		5	3	4	7
British Columbia	5	2			7	1		2				3	4	3	7
Manitoba		1	1		2	2	1					3	-1	2	1
Newfoundland					0			1				1	-1		-1
Nova Scotia	3				3	2						2	1	3	4
Ontario	13	1	1		15	2	1	1		1		5	10	2	12
Quebec	1		1		2	1		1				2			
Saskatchewan	2				2	1	1					2		3	3
Foreign	21	6	1		28	9	1	1		2		13	15	8	23
USA	1				1								1		1
Total, Specialists	56	16	9	3	84	23	7	8		7		45	39	32	71
Total, Overall	72	16	14	4	106	26	7	11		10		54	52	28	80

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.

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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, 2010, is compared to Quarter 3, 2011).

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 (GPs/family physicians). 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 the College 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 the College of their departure. The third quarter (actually, July 1) is when most physicians complete their postgraduate training programs and become eligible for full licenses.

Definitions:

Inflows:

New - Alberta Trained: Newly licensed physicians whose last year of training was in Alberta.

New - Other: Physicians newly licensed in Alberta, excluding the above.

Restored: Physicians whose names were re-instated on the Register. Typically, these Physicians were voluntarily erased from the General Register or temporarily registered on the Provisional Register.

Return to Province: Physicians who maintained licensure while residing out of province, and have since returned to Alberta.

Retired to Full: Physicians who were on the Retired List and have now re-entered active practice.

Total Inflow: The sum of all inflows.

Outflows:

Left Province: Physicians who have maintained their license, but relocated out of province.

Voluntarily Erase: Physicians who no longer required their Alberta license.

Removed: Physicians who were suspended or were licensed for a limited period of time and have since been removed from the Register.

Deceased: (falls in the quarter in which we were notified, rather than the date of death).

Retired: Physicians who have retired or otherwise fully withdrawn from the practice of medicine in Alberta.

Full to Educational: Physicians who were fully-licensed, but chose not to maintain their license while they undertook additional training.

Total Outflow: The sum of all outflows

Report 5 - Inflows and Outflows by Physicians' Place of Graduation

This report reflects the inflows and outflows by the location physicians received their medical diplomas.

Place of graduation is broken down by non-specialist (GPs/family physicians) and specialist. The Alberta medical schools are represented individually, with the remaining Canadian medical schools represented by province. "Foreign" refers to medical schools outside Canada or the United States.

Categories: The category "New" includes both "*New - Alberta Trained*" and "*New - Other*" discussed under report 4.

For further information:

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