GENERAL SURGERY PROFILE

GENERAL INFORMATION
(Sources: Pathway Evaluation Program, the Canadian Medical Residency Guide, Royal College)

The general surgeon is trained to provide surgical care for the whole patient. This includes making a diagnosis; preoperative, operative and postoperative management of the patient; and the surgical treatment of the:

- alimentary tract;
- abdomen and its contents, including the pelvis;
- breast, skin and soft tissue; and
- endocrine system.

It includes head and neck surgery, pediatric surgery, surgical critical care, surgical oncology, trauma and burns, transplants and vascular surgery.

The exact profile of a general surgeon’s practice may vary depending on whether the practice is in an academic centre, an urban community or a more rural centre. In rural practice, some surgeons may do gynecologic, urologic, orthopedic and ENT surgeries. In some academic centres, a general surgeon might limit his/her practice to one subspecialty.
General surgery tends to be a varied specialty, where the activities of a general surgeon involve time in the operating room, office, emergency department and the intensive care unit. General surgical practice requires expertise in communication and collaboration, teaching and research, health care management and continuing professional development.

After completing medical school, to become a general surgeon requires an additional 5 years of training in an Royal College-approved program. Some schools offer a 6-year program, while others offer an optional PGY6 year. The resident must acquire a thorough knowledge of the theoretical basis of general surgery, including its foundations in the basic medical sciences and research. Training should incorporate the principle of graded increasing responsibility. This must include at least 36 months of general surgery rotations, of which at least one year must be spent as a senior or chief resident. For more detailed information on the specialty training requirements go to:

For more detailed training requirements go to:
http://www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/credentials/start/routes/traditional_route

Canadian Association of General Surgeons
www.cags-accg.ca
## Number of Physicians and Physicians/100,000 Population for General Surgery in Canada, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province/Territory</th>
<th>Physicians</th>
<th>Phys/100k pop'n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland/Labrador</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canada</strong></td>
<td><strong>2166</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2015 CMA Masterfile
General Surgeons by gender and year in Canada, 1995 to 2015

Source: CMA Masterfile
General Surgeons by age and gender in Canada, 2015

Gender

- Male: 76%
- Female: 24%

Age Group

- 34 and under: 6%
- 35 - 44: 27%
- 45 - 54: 28%
- 55 - 64: 22%
- 65 and over: 17%

Source: 2015 CMA Masterfile
General Surgeons by age and gender in Canada, 2015

Source: 2015 CMA Masterfile
Main work setting of **General Surgeons** in Canada, 2014

- Community Hospital: 42%
- Academic Health Sciences Centre: 27%
- Private Office/Clinic: 13%
- Non-AHSC Teaching Hospital: 12%
- Admin/Corp office: 1%
- Free-standing Lab/Diag Clinic: 1%
- Other Hospital: 1%

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Practice organization for **General Surgeons** in Canada, 2014

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Hours worked per week (excluding on-call) by **General Surgeons** in Canada, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours worked per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care without teaching component</td>
<td>26.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care with teaching component</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching without patient care</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect patient care</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facility committees</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing practice</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued professional development</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</strong></td>
<td><strong>54.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Time spent on call in direct patient care = 63 hrs./month

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Remuneration for **General Surgeons** in Canada

**Primary payment method**\(^1\) in 2013

- **60%:** 90% + salary
- **26%:** 90% + fee-for-service
- **4%:** Blended
- **4%:** 90% + other*
- **7%:** NR

* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

**Average gross clinical earnings for General Surgery in 2013/14** (those earning at least $60,000) = $420,484\(^2\)

**Average percent overhead reported by all surgeons in 2010** = 28.4%\(^3\)

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1 National Physician Survey, 2013, CFPC, CMA, Royal College
2 National Physician Database, 2013/14, CIHI
3 National Physician Survey, 2010, CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Satisfaction among General Surgeons in Canada, 2013

**Balance of personal & professional commitments**
- Very dissatisfied: 9%
- Dissatisfied: 4%
- Neutral: 19%
- Satisfied: 22%
- Very satisfied: 35%
- NR: 11%

**Current professional life**
- Very dissatisfied: 9%
- Dissatisfied: 3%
- Neutral: 10%
- Satisfied: 10%
- Very satisfied: 50%
- NR: 19%

Source: 2013 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
General Surgeons who are Royal College, CFPC or CMQ certified in Canada, 2015

99% Royal College
1% CFPC
18% CMQ
10% Outside Canada

Note: Subset of those who reported a certification. Physicians could indicate more than one certification body.

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Number of General Surgeons who retired during the THREE year period of 2012 to 2014

Source: CMA Masterfile – year over year comparisons

Note: “Retired” is based on giving up licence and is therefore excludes those who have retired from clinical practice but are still licensed; it includes physicians who have temporarily given up their licence but may return to practice at a later date.
### Total and Ministry funded postgraduate MD trainees in 2014/15 – General surgery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty of Medicine</th>
<th>Ministry funded</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Faculty of Medicine</th>
<th>Ministry funded</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial U N&amp;L</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>McMaster U</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie U</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>UWO</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Laval</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>NOSM</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Sherbrooke</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>U Manitoba</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Montréal</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>U Sask</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill U</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>U Alberta</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Ottawa</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>U Calgary</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens U</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Toronto</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes pediatric general surgery*

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER
First year and exiting postgraduate-MD trainees in 2014/15 – General Surgery

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER
Postgraduate-MD trainees in 2014/15 – General Surgery

• Total of 95 first year General Surgery trainees representing 17% of all General Surgery trainees.

• Total of 562 General Surgery trainees representing 4% of all Ministry funded trainees.

• Total of 91 visa trainees in General Surgery.

• Total of 77 General Surgery trainees completed postgraduate training in 2014.

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER
Location of 2013 Postgraduate-MD exits in 2015 – General Surgery

Of the 77 exits in 2013, 61 (79%) were known to be practising in Canada

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER
Stress associated with finding employment at end of residency

Source: 2012 National Physician Survey of residents. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Links to the organizations supplying information for this document

National Physician Survey
http://www.nationalphysiciansurvey.ca

Canadian Medical Association
http://www.cma.ca/pdc

Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
http://www.caper.ca/

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
http://www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/credentials/start/routes/traditional_route

College of Family Physicians of Canada
http://www.cfpc.ca

Canadian Institute for Health Information
http://www.cihi.ca