Family Medicine Profile

Updated November 2016
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Family medicine is the main primary care medical specialty in Canada. It focuses care on the individual within the context of the family and the community. Family physicians (refers to both family physicians and general practitioners) deliver services across the entire spectrum of care, regardless of patient age, sex or condition. Public polls repeatedly confirm how highly the people of Canada value family doctors for their roles in caring for them.

While family medicine may seem the most “general” of the specialties, it is in fact, a precise discipline, integrating a unique blend of biomedical, behavioural and social sciences, while employing a diverse range of cognitive and procedural skills.

Source: Pathway evaluation program
The family physician is often called upon to deal with undifferentiated clinical problems presenting at an early stage. In addition to acute disorders, which are sometimes life-threatening, there is a high frequency of chronic diseases, emotional problems and transient illnesses.

Family physicians deliver care across a wide spectrum of settings, including their offices, hospital, long-term and other health care facilities and the patient’s home. The close, long-term physician-patient relationship that is established, the diversity in the work and the variety of practice opportunities offered by family medicine are some of the main factors that attract physicians to this specialty.

Family physicians also play an important role in health promotion and illness prevention, coordinating care with other specialties and health professionals, and advocating on behalf of their patients with respect to the care and services they need in all parts of the health care system.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in family medicine with the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) requires an additional 2 years of postgraduate training. This includes experiences in family practice settings; general surgery; internal medicine; pediatrics; obstetrics/gynaecology; psychiatry and emergency medicine; as well as opportunities for electives in areas selected by each resident. The training environment includes hospitals but is also very focused on experiences in community-based practices, including opportunities in small town and rural settings.

While most residents are well prepared to enter practice after 2 years of postgraduate training, some with specific needs or interests might benefit from additional or enhanced skills training and apply to a number of positions available for an optional third year. Examples of such third year programs include emergency medicine, palliative care, maternity care and care of elderly.

Source: Pathway evaluation program
The main objective of additional training is to prepare graduates to be able to offer added services to patients as part of their broad-based or comprehensive continuing care family practices.

Following the completion of residency, there is a certification examination to evaluate competence in the specialty of family medicine. If successful, the resident will be awarded Certification in The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP) that is then maintained throughout their career through participation in the College’s life-long learning (continuing professional development) program.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

College of Family Physicians of Canada

Source: Pathway evaluation program
Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2016

<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>873</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1335</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>1130</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
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<td>116</td>
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<td>Alberta</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
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<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CANADA</strong></td>
<td><strong>41719</strong></td>
<td><strong>116</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2016 CMA Masterfile
Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2016

* Includes General Practitioners
Source: 2016 CMA Masterfile
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2016

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2016 CMA Masterfile
Percentage by gender & age, 2016

**Gender**
- Male: 56%
- Female: 44%

**Age Group**
- <35: 10%
- 35 - 44: 22%
- 45 - 54: 27%
- 55 - 64: 26%
- 65+: 15%

* Includes General Practitioners
Source: 2016 CMA Masterfile
Number by gender & age, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;35</td>
<td>2522</td>
<td>1353</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
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<td>4104</td>
<td>6425</td>
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<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>1282</td>
<td>4825</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Includes General Practitioners
Source: 2016 CMA Masterfile
Percentage by main work setting, 2014

- Private Office/Clinic: 54%
- Community Clinic/Health-centre: 13%
- Other Hospital: 9%
- Community Hospital: 6%
- Academic Health Sciences Centre: 5%
- Free-standing Walk-in Clinic: 4%
- Free-standing Lab/Diag Clinic: 2%

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Percentage by practice organization, 2014

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
# Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours worked per week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care without teaching component</td>
<td>26.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct patient care with teaching component</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching without patient care</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect patient care</td>
<td>6.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health facility committees</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing practice</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continued professional development</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</strong></td>
<td><strong>47.0</strong></td>
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* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
On-call duty hours per month, 2014

- 72% for Up to 120 hrs/month
- 9% for More than 120, up to 180 hrs/month
- 5% for More than 180, up to 240 hrs/month
- 3% for More than 240 hrs/month
- 11% for No response
- Time spent on call in direct patient care = 26 hrs./month

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method\(^1\) in 2013

- 90% + fee-for-service
- 90% + salary
- 90% + other\(^*\)
- Blended
- NR

\(^*\) Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Family Medicine in 2014/15 (those earning at least $60,000) = $251,362\(^2\)

Average percent overhead reported in 2010 = 28.2%\(^3\)

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\(^1\) National Physician Survey, 2013, CFPC, CMA, Royal College

\(^2\) National Physician Database, 2014/15, CIHI

\(^3\) National Physician Survey, 2010, CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2013

Balance of personal & professional commitments:
- 8% NR
- 24% Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 19% Neutral
- 49% Satisfied or very satisfied

Current professional life:
- 8% NR
- 9% Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 12% Neutral
- 72% Satisfied or very satisfied

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2013 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2013-2015

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: CMA Masterfile – year over year comparisons

Note: “Retired” is based on giving up licence and therefore excludes those who have retired from clinical practice but are still licensed; those younger than 45 may include physicians who have temporarily given up their licence but return to practice at a later date.
## Total & Ministry funded postgraduate MD trainees in 2014/15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty of Medicine</th>
<th>Ministry funded</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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<td>U Laval</td>
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<tr>
<td>U Sherbrooke</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>U Manitoba</td>
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<td>U Montréal</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>U Sask</td>
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<tr>
<td>McGill U</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>U Alberta</td>
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<td>U Ottawa</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>U Calgary</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes emergency med (CFPC), care of elderly (CFPC), enhanced skills, palliative medicine

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

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER

IMG – International Medical Graduates
GCMS – Graduates of Canadian Medical Schools
Postgraduate-MD trainees in 2014/15

- Total of 1410 first year Family Practice trainees representing 43% of all Family Practice trainees.
- Total of 3266 Family Practice trainees representing 26% of all Ministry funded trainees.
- Total of 13 visa trainees in Family Practice.
- Total of 1340 Family Practice trainees completed postgraduate training in 2014.

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER
Location of 2013 postgraduate-MD exits in 2015

Of the 1217 exits in 2013, 1136 (93%) 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

**FM resident**
- Not stressful: 43%
- Somewhat stressful: 42%
- Very stressful: 8%
- NR/NA: 7%

**Other spec res**
- Not stressful: 20%
- Somewhat stressful: 50%
- Very stressful: 25%
- NR/NA: 6%

* Includes General Practitioners

Source: 2012 National Physician Survey of residents. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Links to the Organizations Supplying Information for this Document

- National Physician Survey
- Canadian Medical Association
- Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Canadian Institute for Health Information