Gastroenterology Profile
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Gastroenterology is a subspecialty of internal medicine and/or pediatrics dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders related to the digestive system including the esophagus, stomach, small intestine and large intestine (colon), gallbladder, pancreas and liver. It is a procedures-oriented specialty that requires some manual dexterity and the ability to analyze problems and data.

The gastroenterologist is generally not the primary-care physician, but instead, part of a health care team that provides a diagnostic and therapeutic function in patient care.

Source: Pathway evaluation program
GENERAL INFORMATION

Gastroenterologists treat a broad range of conditions, including, but not limited to:
- Abdominal pain
- Abnormal x-ray findings
- Colon cancer
- Colon polyps
- Colon screening exams
- Constipation
- Crohn's Disease
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty swallowing
- Diverticulosis
- Esophageal reflux
- Gastritis
- GERD
- Heartburn
- Hemorrhoids
- Hepatitis
- Hiatal hernia
- Indigestion
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Jaundice
- Liver disease
- Malabsorption
- Nausea diarrhea
- Post-operative colon tests
- Rectal bleeding
- Spastic colon
- Ulcers
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Unexplained weight loss
- Vomiting

Source: Pathway evaluation program
GENERAL INFORMATION

Gastroenterologists do not perform surgery; however, they do perform procedures such as liver biopsies, endoscopic ("scope") examinations of the esophagus, stomach, small and large bowel. Gastroenterologists frequently work with surgeons in helping them select the best operation for a particular patient.

After completing medical school, to become a gastroenterologist requires a further 6 years of training in Royal College-approved programs. Physicians must first successfully complete either a 4 year residency in internal medicine or pediatrics, followed by an additional 1-2 years training in gastroenterology.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Canadian Association of Gastroenterology

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>12</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANADA</strong></td>
<td><strong>782</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Source: 2016 CMA Masterfile
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2016

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

Gender
- Male: 71%
- Female: 29%

Age Group
- 35 - 44: 37%
- 45 - 54: 22%
- 55 - 64: 20%
- <35: 8%
- 65+: 13%

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

65+
- Female: 6
- Male: 89

55-64
- Female: 17
- Male: 131

45-54
- Female: 53
- Male: 113

35-44
- Female: 105
- Male: 175

<35
- Female: 32
- Male: 25

Source: 2016 CMA Masterfile
Percentage by main work setting, 2014

- Private Office/Clinic: 39%
- Academic Health Sciences Centre: 30%
- Non-AHSC Teaching Hospital: 13%
- Community Hospital: 9%
- Research Unit: 3%
- Nursing home/long term care facility/seniors’ residence: 3%
- University: 3%

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

- **Solo Practice**: 48%
- **Group Practice**: 28%
- **Interprofessional Practice**: 18%
- **Hospital-based Practice**: 6%
- **NR**: 0%

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care without teaching component</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care with teaching component</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching without patient care</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect patient care</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facility committees</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing practice</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued professional development</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</strong></td>
<td><strong>49.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 70% Up to 120 hrs/month
- 20% More than 120, up to 180 hrs/month
- 10% More than 180, up to 240 hrs/month
- More than 240 hrs/month
- No response

Time spent on call in direct patient care = 43 hrs./month

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

Primary payment method\(^1\) in 2013

- **90% + fee-for-service**: 59%
- **90% + salary**: 6%
- **90% + other\(^*\)**: 20%
- **Blended**: 7%
- **NR**: 9%

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

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Gastroenterology (those earning at least $60,000) = $507,145\(^2\)

Average percent overhead reported by Internal Medicine specialists in 2010 = 22%\(^3\)

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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
- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 6%
- Neutral: 28%
- Satisfied or very satisfied: 20%
- NR: 48%

Current professional life
- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 6%
- Neutral: 9%
- Satisfied or very satisfied: 19%
- NR: 67%

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

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>
<th>Faculty of Medicine</th>
<th>Ministry funded</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUN</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>McMaster U</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dalhousie U</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>UWO</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>U Laval</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>NOSM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Sherbrooke</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>U Manitoba</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Montréal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>U Sask</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill U</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>U Alberta</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Ottawa</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>U Calgary</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens U</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Toronto</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes Gastroenterology (Int Med) and Gastroenterology (Ped)

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER
PGY-4 & exiting postgraduate-MD trainees in 2014/15

- **PGY-4**: 18 Female, 24 Male
- **Postgrad exits**: 29 Female, 24 Male

**IMG** – International Medical Graduates
**GCMS** – Graduates of Canadian Medical Schools

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

- Total of 42 PGY-4 Gastroenterology trainees representing 50% of all Gastroenterology trainees.
- Total of 84 Gastroenterology trainees representing 0.7% of all Ministry funded trainees.
- Total of 61 visa trainees in Gastroenterology.
- Total of 53 Gastroenterology trainees completed postgraduate training in 2014.

Source: 2014/15 Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees, CAPER
Of the 53 exits in 2013, 42 (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

- **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%

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