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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, 2017

<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>11</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANADA</strong></td>
<td><strong>806</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2017 CMA Masterfile
Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2017

Source: 1995-2017 CMA Masterfiles
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2017

Source: 1995-2017 CMA Masterfiles
Percentage by gender & age, 2017

**Gender**
- Male: 70%
- Female: 30%

**Age Group**
- 35 - 44: 39%
- 45 - 54: 22%
- 55 - 64: 18%
- <35: 7%
- 65+: 14%

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2017 CMA Masterfile
Number by gender & age, 2017

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2017 CMA Masterfile
Percentage by main work setting, 2017

- Academic Health Sciences Centre: 36%
- Private Office/Clinic: 28%
- Community Hospital: 23%
- Non-AHSC Teaching Hospital: 7%
- Other: 2%
- Free-standing Walk-in Clinic: 2%
- Community Clinic/Health-centre: 2%

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Percentage by practice organization, 2017

- Solo Practice: 34%
- Group Practice: 20%
- Interprofessional Practice: 5%
- Hospital-based Practice: 39%
- NR: 2%

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
### Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2017

<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>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care with teaching component</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching without patient care</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect patient care</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<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>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing practice</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued professional development</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</strong></td>
<td><strong>54.8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
On-call duty hours per month, 2017

- 84% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 108 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 44 hours/month

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method\(^1\) in 2017

- 90% + fee-for-service: 76%
- 90% + salary: 10%
- 90% + other* (Other includes capitation, sessional, contract or other methods): 6%
- NR: 7%

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Gastroenterology in 2015/16 (those earning at least $60,000) = $516,460\(^2\)

Average percent overhead reported by Gastroenterologists in 2017 = 25%\(^3\)

\(^1\) 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
\(^2\) National Physician Database, 2015/16, CIHI
\(^3\) 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2017

Balance of personal & professional commitments

- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 40%
- Neutral: 23%
- Satisfied or very satisfied: 37%

Current professional life

- NR: 6%
- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 16%
- Neutral: 78%

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2014-2016

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.
Employment situation, 2017

- 51% Employed in my discipline to my satisfaction
- 45% Underemployed in my discipline
- 3% Overworked in my discipline
- 1% Not employed in my discipline
- 1% No response

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Links to additional resources

- Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
- Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Canadian Medical Association’s Physician Data Centre
- Canadian Post-MD Education Registry (CAPER)
- College of Family Physicians of Canada
- National Physician Survey (2004-2014)
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada