General Surgery
Profile

Updated November 2016
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GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

Source: Pathway evaluation program
GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

Source: Pathway evaluation program
GENERAL INFORMATION

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 is spent as a senior or chief resident.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Canadian Association of General Surgeons

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>43</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANADA</strong></td>
<td><strong>2183</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.1</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

- Total
- Males
- Females

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

**Gender**
- Male: 75%
- Female: 25%

**Age Group**
- <35: 6%
- 35 - 44: 27%
- 45 - 54: 29%
- 55 - 64: 22%
- 65+: 16%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>444</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;35</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Solo Practice: 59%
- Group Practice: 29%
- Interprofessional Practice: 3%
- Hospital-based Practice: 1%
- NR: 8%

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>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
On-call duty hours per month, 2014

Time spent on call in direct patient care = 63 hrs./month

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

Primary payment method\(^1\) in 2013

- 60% 90% + fee-for-service
- 26% 90% + salary
- 7% 90% + other\(^*\)
- 4% Blended
- 4% NR

* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for General Surgery in 2014/15 (those earning at least $60,000) = $423,681\(^2\)

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, 2014/15, CIHI
3 National Physician Survey, 2010, CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2013

Balance of personal & professional commitments

- **9%** NR
- **23%** Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- **22%** Neutral
- **46%** Satisfied or very satisfied

Current professional life

- **9%** NR
- **13%** Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- **10%** Neutral
- **68%** Satisfied or very satisfied

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>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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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 & exiting postgraduate-MD trainees in 2014/15

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

- 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
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

**FM resident**
- Not stressful: 43%
- Somewhat stressful: 42%
- Very stressful: 8%

**Other spec res**
- Not stressful: 20%
- Somewhat stressful: 50%
- Very stressful: 25%

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