Ophthalmology

Profile

Updated August 2018
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Ophthalmology deals with the screening, diagnosis and management of optical, medical and surgical disorders and diseases of the eye, associated orbital structures and neuro-visual pathways. The specialty relies on a combination of diagnostic, medical and surgical skills. Most surgical interventions are microsurgical requiring excellent fine-motor manual dexterity.

Ophthalmologists operate within a fairly specific area of expertise but on a broad range of patients, from newborns to geriatric patients. A large portion of the care and treatment they provide is done in their private office. They are the leaders of the eye care team interacting with other physicians and health care professionals in the management of eye care, including orthoptists, ophthalmic technicians, nurses and optometrists.

Source: Pathway evaluation program
GENERAL INFORMATION

There are a number of subspecialties within ophthalmology, including cornea and external disease, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, ophthalmic pathology, ophthalmic plastic surgery, pediatric ophthalmology, retina, uveitis and low vision. Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in ophthalmology requires an additional 5 years of Royal College-approved residency training. This training includes:

• 1 year of basic clinical training;
• 4 years of Royal College-approved residency in ophthalmology, including sufficient experience to achieve competency in performing procedures such as: topical & regional anesthesia (of the eye and periorcular structures); laser therapy; surgery (for cataract, enucleation, eyelids, glaucoma etc); surgical management of trauma to the eye, ocular adnexa and orbit; ultrasound examination of the eye, and interpretation of diagnostic imaging of the eye and visual system.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Residents must also have sufficient experience to achieve competency in collecting and interpreting data, carrying out diagnostic procedures, making appropriate clinical decisions including recommending appropriate therapeutic procedures in specific domains such as cornea/external disease, glaucoma, and trauma to the eye, ocular adnexa and orbit.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Canadian Ophthalmological Society

Source: Pathway evaluation program
# Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2018

<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>15</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
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<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CANADA</strong></td>
<td><strong>1249</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile*
Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2018

Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2018

Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles
Percentage by gender & age, 2018

Gender

- Male: 73%
- Female: 27%

Age Group

- <35: 6%
- 35 - 44: 22%
- 45 - 54: 23%
- 55 - 64: 28%
- 65+: 21%

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile
Number by gender & age, 2018

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile
Percentage by main work setting, 2017

Private Office/Clinic: 74%
Academic Health Sciences Centre: 18%
Community Hospital: 5%
Community Clinic/Health-centre: 1%
Non-AHSC Teaching Hospital: 1%
Other Hospital: 0.9%

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

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>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care with teaching component</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching without patient care</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect patient care</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facility committees</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing practice</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued professional development</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</strong></td>
<td><strong>51.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 74% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 110 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 29 hours/month

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

Primary payment method\(^1\) in 2017

- **90% + fee-for-service**: 92%
- **90% + salary**: 7%
- **90% + other\(^*\)**: 1%
- **Blended**: NR

*Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

**Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Ophthalmology in 2015/16 (those earning at least $60,000) = $791,546\(^2\)**

**Average percent overhead reported by Ophthalmologists in 2017 = 40%\(^3\)**

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\(^1\) 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
- 23% Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 18% Neutral
- 59% Satisfied or very satisfied

Current professional life
- 6% Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 14% Neutral
- 80% Satisfied or very satisfied

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

- 48% Employed in my discipline to my satisfaction
- 45% Overworked in my discipline
- 7% Underemployed in my discipline
- 7% Not employed in my discipline
- 7% 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