Radiation Oncology Profile

Updated March 2018
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Radiation oncologists are medical specialists with unique knowledge, understanding and expertise in the diagnosis and care of patients with malignant disease. They are integrally involved in the formulation and execution of the management plan of cancer patients and therefore require specific knowledge and skills in the application of ionizing radiations to cancer treatment. Using an evidence-based approach, they are responsible for the appropriate recommendation, prescription and supervision of therapeutic ionizing radiation. The competent and ethical discharge of these responsibilities results in improved quality of life and/or survival for cancer patients, which in turn benefits families, society and future care.

Typically, a radiation oncologist practices in a multidisciplinary fashion in close collaboration with general and subspecialty surgeons, medical and gynecological oncologists. Ambulatory patient care is the norm. Cancer centres are generally located in large cities within academic health science centres, thus most radiation oncologists should expect to have an academic career.

Source: Pathway evaluation program
GENERAL INFORMATION

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in radiation oncology requires an additional 5 years of Royal College-approved residency training. This training includes:

• 1 year of approved basic clinical training to introduce and expose the trainee to independent responsibility for decisions involving clinical judgment skills, the further development of an effective, and mature physician-patient relationship, and the achievement of competence in primary technical skills across a broad range of medical practice. The first year of an approved family medicine program is acceptable in fulfillment of this requirement.

• 3 years of approved residency training in radiation oncology, 1 year of which must include: 6 months of approved residency training in internal medicine, which may include up to three months of hematology/oncology; and 6 months of approved training in clinical training, basic science, or research training.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology

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>9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANADA</strong></td>
<td><strong>562</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.5</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: 63%
- Female: 37%

Age Group
- 35 - 44: 36%
- 45 - 54: 27%
- 55 - 64: 23%
- <35: 6%
- 65+: 8%

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, 2014*

- Academic Health Sciences Centre: 70%
- Non-AHSC Teaching Hospital: 14%
- Community Hospital: 8%
- Admin/Corp office: 4%
- Nursing home/long term care facility/seniors’ residence: 4%

*Most recent available data for this specialty
Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Percentage by practice organization, 2014*

- Solo Practice: 84%
- Group Practice: 4%
- Interprofessional Practice: 12%
- Hospital-based Practice: NR

*Most recent available data for this specialty

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
### Radiation Oncology

**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>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care with teaching component</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching without patient care</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect patient care</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facility committees</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing practice</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued professional development</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</strong></td>
<td><strong>51.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Most recent available data for this specialty

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

- 87% Up to 120 hrs/month
- 4% More than 120, up to 180 hrs/month
- 4% More than 180, up to 240 hrs/month
- 4% More than 240 hrs/month
- 5% No response

Time spent on call in direct patient care = 14 hrs./month

*Most recent available data for this specialty
Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method\(^1\) in 2013\(^{**}\)

- 90% + fee-for-service: 53%
- 90% + salary: 25%
- 90% + other*: 17%
- Blended: 2%
- NR: 3%

* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

\(^{**}\)Most recent available data for this specialty

1. National Physician Survey, 2013, CFPC, CMA, Royal College
2. National Physician Database, 2014/15, CIHI

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for all medical specialties in 2015/16 (those earning at least $60,000) = $350,629\(^2\)

Average percent overhead reported by all medical specialists in 2010\(^{**}\) = 20%\(^3\)
Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2013*

**Balance of personal & professional commitments**
- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 6%
- Neutral: 32%
- Satisfied or very satisfied: 46%

**Current professional life**
- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 6%
- Neutral: 17%
- Satisfied or very satisfied: 63%

*Most recent available data for this specialty
Source: 2013 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College
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.
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