Anesthesiology Profile

Updated
December 2019
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General information

Anesthesiology (anesthesia) is a diversified specialty requiring physicians to draw upon their knowledge of pharmacy and physiology and to utilize their technical skills in the provision of perioperative care, critical care, emergency care and pain management.

Certain strengths may be needed to pursue this specialty such as the ability to perform under pressure, to think quickly in stressful situations, to use your hands and to work in a team environment. The opportunity to establish continuing, long-term physician / patient relationships is limited in this specialty.

Anesthesiology is a relatively flexible, mobile specialty and is involved in the following settings:

Source: Pathway evaluation program
General information

- For surgery, anesthesiologists evaluate the patient’s overall health, plan techniques, choose agents, administer anesthesia, and monitor the effects of anesthesia and surgery on the patient’s vital functions;
- In the ICU, they care for critically ill patients by providing airway management, cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation, advanced life support and pain control;
- On the maternity ward, attend to the management of pain relief during childbirth;
- In pain clinics, anesthesiologists provide acute and chronic pain relief to a variety of patients.

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

- 1 year of basic clinical training; and
- 4 years of Royal College-approved training that must include: 30 months of Royal College-approved resident training in anesthesiology; 1 year of Royal College-approved resident training in internal medicine (to be undertaken preferably after a year of clinical training in anesthesiology); 6 months of training that may include further training in an approved anesthesiology program or research experience in a clinical or basic science department approved by the Royal College; and 6 months training in clinical pharmacology undertaken in an accredited program during the final residency year.

For further details on training requirements please go to:
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society

Source: Pathway evaluation program
<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>52</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>1262</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>3393</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile
Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019

Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019

Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles
Percentage by gender & age, 2019

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.
Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile
Number by gender & age, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;35</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.
Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile
Percentage by main work setting, 2019

- **Academic Health Sciences Centre**: 46%
- **Community Hospital**: 29%
- **Non-AHSC Teaching Hospital**: 17%
- **Private Office/Clinic**: 3%
- **Other**: 2%
- **University**: 2%
- **Other Hospital**: 1%

Source: 2019 CMA Physician Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Percentage by practice organization, 2017*

*Most recent available data for this specialty

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
### Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2019

<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>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care with teaching component</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching without patient care</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect patient care</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facility committees</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing practice</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued professional development</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</strong></td>
<td><strong>50.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2019 CMA Physician Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 89% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 80 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 50 hours/month

Source: 2019 CMA Physician Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method\(^1\) in 2017

- 70% 90% + salary
- 25% 90% + fee-for-service
- 3% 90% + other* 
- 2% Blended
- 1% NR

Average gross payment per physician for Anesthesiology in 2017/18 (those earning at least $60,000) = $449,858\(^2\)

Average percent overhead reported by Anesthesiologists in 2017 = 13\(^3\)

\* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods
\(^1\) 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
\(^2\) National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI
\(^3\) Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019

Balance of personal & professional commitments

- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 23%
- Neutral: 22%
- Satisfied or very satisfied: 55%

Current professional life

- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied: 14%
- Neutral: 12%
- Satisfied or very satisfied: 74%

Source: 2019 CMA Physician Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018

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

- Overworked in my discipline: 36.1%
- Employed in my discipline to my satisfaction: 63.9%
- Underemployed in my discipline: 3%
- Not employed in my discipline: 1%
- No response: 1%

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