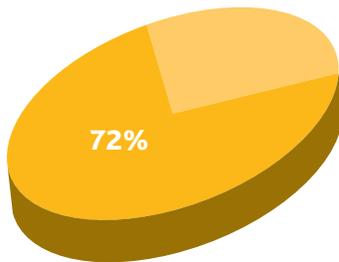




# VIRTUAL CARE

Digital innovations have been widely adopted and improve many aspects of our daily lives. One exception is our publicly funded health care system – a model that has not significantly evolved in decades.

72% believe Canada has been slow to adopt virtual care, with no generational differences.



### ***The CMA's leadership on virtual care***

*Recognizing the value to patients, the CMA has joined forces with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada as part of a new task force on enabling virtual care in Canada. This group is working to identify the regulatory and administrative changes needed to support virtual care in Canada, including how physicians can deliver care to patients.*

### **A national physician license supports the expansion of virtual care**

Physicians note that with a national license, they would likely:



*“Doing this would support the principles of the Canada Health Act in terms of portability and accessibility. It would help to relieve physician undersupply in some provinces.”*

Physician, CMA Member Voice e-Panel respondent

# What we know



A digital divide exists in Canada. Some individuals, communities and population groups experience barriers to accessing online services, including virtual care.



Adoption of virtual care has been slow due to regulatory and privacy issues.



Digital health, including virtual care, offers the potential to promote patient and population health, but red tape is blocking its delivery across provincial and territorial boundaries.

## The CMA calls on federal political parties to commit to:

- Establishing a national Digital Health Literacy Secretariat to address the country's health digital divide.
- Increasing funding to assist the connectivity and interoperability of virtual care, ultimately enhancing communication between patients, their physicians and health facilities.
- Investing in establishing a national license to enable physicians to deliver patient care through technology everywhere in Canada.