



College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

Registering Success 2010

2010 Registration Report

May 2011

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario governs the practice of medicine in Ontario. The College acts in the public interest by setting and maintaining standards of medical practice and licensing qualified physicians, amongst other duties.

The College issues postgraduate education certificates to physicians in residency training and practice certificates to all other candidates. This report provides information about the total number of licences issued in 2010 by class of certificate of registration and source of medical degree. These statistics are reported annually to show year-over-year changes and significant trends over time.

The 2010 registration results show an increase in the number of certificates issued to practice medicine – a trend that has continued every year since 1997. In fact, last year the College issued 3,708 certificates of registration – our highest ever annual total.

The College has worked for many years with government, medical schools and others to find workable solutions to the physician resource challenge in Ontario. We established and continue to support the multi-stakeholder Physician Resources Task Force which works to streamline and improve access to physician registration.

New College policies and programs have provided greater opportunities to physicians to qualify to practice medicine, without compromising our existing high standards of registration. In fact, licence issuance to international medical graduates (IMGs) has tripled since 1997, up from 481 to 1,522 in 2010. This marked increase is attributable to a number of factors, including more Ministry of Health-funded IMG residency training positions and the work done by the College's Task Force in collaboration with key stakeholders.

We will continue to work with our provincial and national partners in government, medical education and training, and specialty certification to ensure a system-wide approach to physician registration to continuously improve access to quality care for the people of Ontario.



In 2010, 3,708 licences were issued – the highest number issued in CPSO history.



Licence issuance to international medical graduates has tripled since 1997.



The number of physicians in active practice is up 20% since 2000.

2010 Report Highlights

Record-breaking numbers include:

- 3,708 certificates of registration – the highest number ever issued.
- 1,617 practice certificates – the most issued since 1985.
- 2,091 postgraduate education certificates, the highest number issued in CPSO history.
- 13th straight year that licence issuance has increased.
- 7th straight year that more certificates issued to IMGs than to Ontario graduates.
- 3,988 more physicians in active practice than in 2000, up 20%.
- 29,350 physicians in active practice (includes physicians in postgraduate training).

Positive results from CPSO registration policies and programs

- 342 practice certificates approved in 2010.
- 70% of approvals went to IMGs.
- 2,047 practice certificates issued under CPSO policies and programs since 2002.
- 87 practice certificates issued under four new pathways to registration.
- 21% of IMGs granted an independent practice certificate previously held a restricted certificate issued under a CPSO policy.

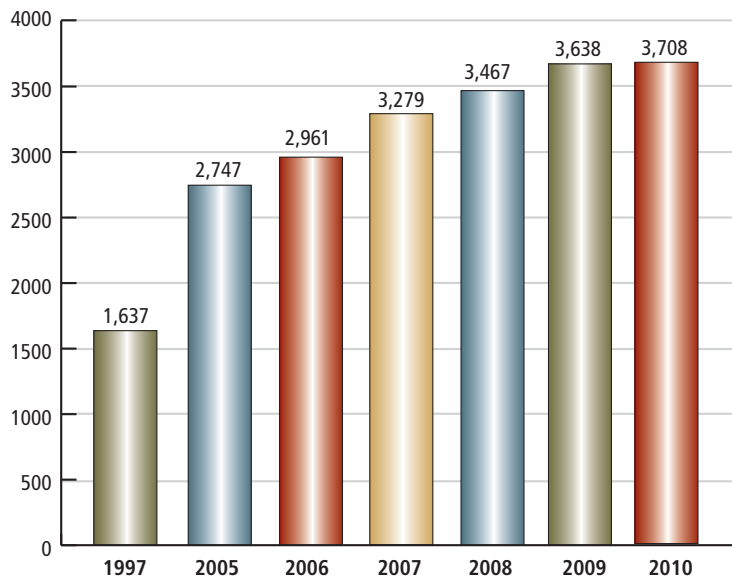
2010 REGISTRATION REPORT

1. Total Issuances

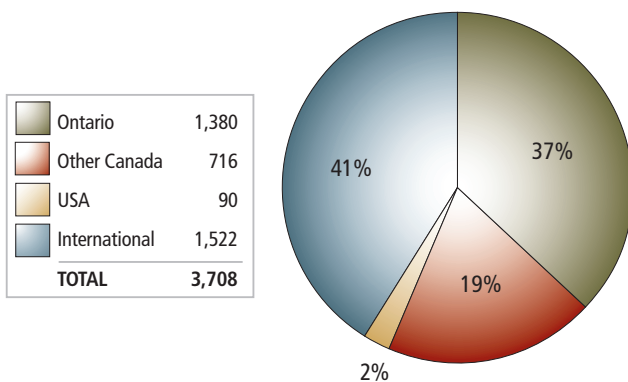
(Includes all classes of certificates¹, see Appendix 1 for an explanatory note)

- In 2010, the CPSO issued 3,708 certificates of registration – our highest ever annual total.
- The 2010 total surpassed the record-breaking number issued in 2009 by 82 certificates (2%).
- For the past 13 years, total licence issuance has increased every year, and more than doubles the 1997 total.

TOTAL CERTIFICATES ISSUED SINCE 1997



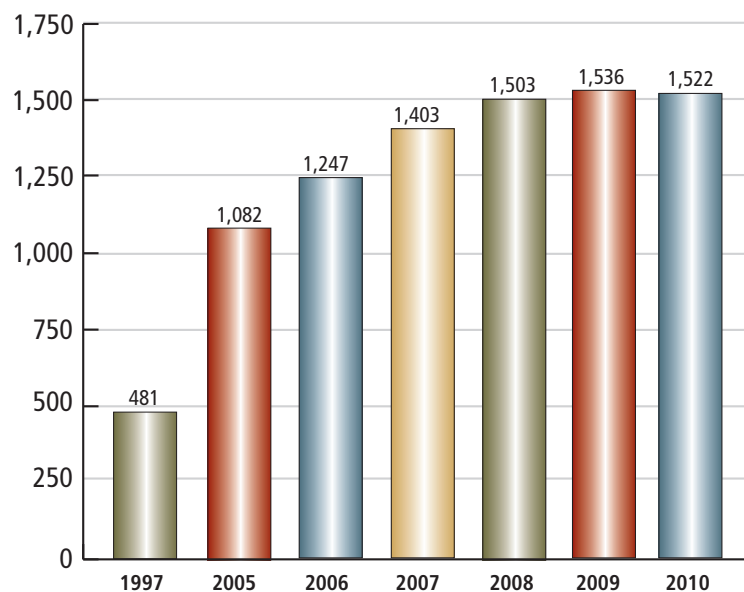
TOTAL ISSUANCES BY SOURCE OF MD



- For the seventh straight year, more certificates were issued to international medical graduates (IMGs) than to Ontario graduates.
- Since 1997, issuance to IMGs has more than tripled.
- In 2010, IMG share of total issuance was 41%, nearly equaling the 2008 record high 43%. By comparison, IMGs had a 28% share 10 years ago and only a 16% share 20 years ago.

¹ All classes of certificates includes: independent practice; restricted; short duration; academic practice; academic visitor; and postgraduate education certificates.

TOTAL CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES SINCE 1997



Why the increase?

For more than a decade, all categories of graduates – Ontario, Canadian and international – have increased. The following are some of the key factors:

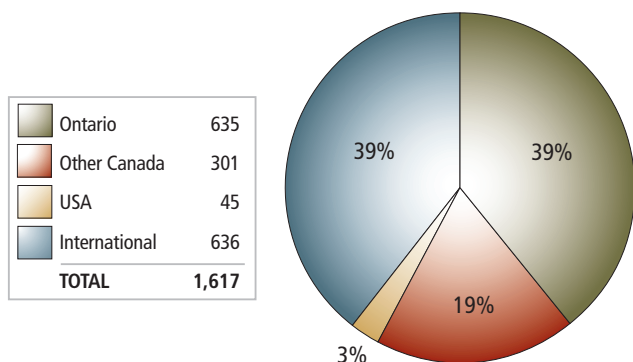
For International Medical Graduates	For Ontario and Canadian Graduates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • positive effect of CPSO registration policies • more Ministry of Health-funded IMG residency positions • opening up of both iterations of CaRMS match • Ontario government marketing and recruitment efforts (HealthForceOntario) • more clinical fellows (i.e., international specialists doing “topping-off” training) • increased inflow of qualified IMGs from other provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increases in Canadian medical school enrolment and residency positions • continuing inflow of Canadian physicians from other provinces • reduced outflow of Ontario physicians • repatriated Ontario physicians • Ontario government recruitment and incentive strategies • positive effect of CPSO registration policies

2. Practice Certificates

(Includes all classes *except* postgraduate education class, see Appendix 1 for an explanatory note)

- Of the 3,708 certificates of registration issued, 1,617 were practice certificates (2,091 were postgraduate education certificates).
- Last year's issuance of 1,617 practice certificates was the highest number issued since 1985.
- Practice certificates include all classes of registration, except the postgraduate education class (the class which only permits supervised practice after graduation from medical school, and is required for postgraduate residency medical training at an Ontario medical school). For statistics about the postgraduate education class, please see page 8.

PRACTICE CERTIFICATES BY SOURCE OF MD



Practice Certificates Issued Since 1997

1997	636
2005	1,156
2006	1,276
2007	1,410
2008	1,511
2009	1,563
2010	1,617

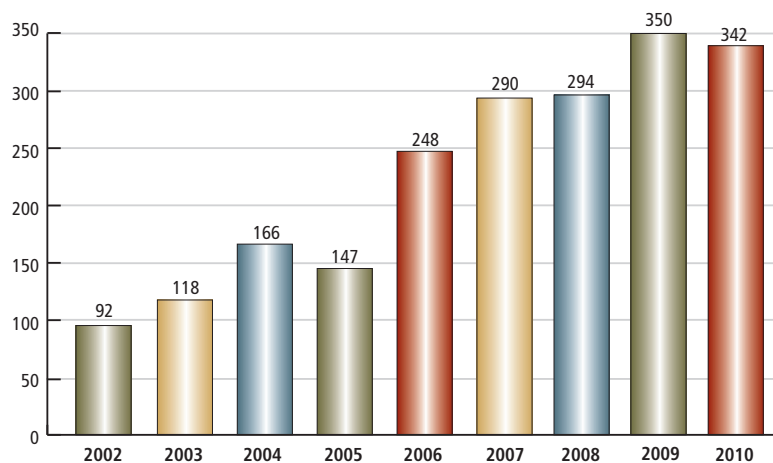
Practice certificates issued under CPSO registration policies

- 2010 was an impressive year for issuance of practice certificates under CPSO registration policies and programs introduced since 2002 to facilitate entry to medical practice (e.g., Assistant Professor policy, Restricted Registration policy, and Registration through Practice Assessment program).²
- The Registration Committee approved 342 practice certificates in 2010 (70% went to IMGs) and has approved 2,047 since 2002. By comparison, in 1995, the Registration Committee approved only 25 practice certificates.

New Pathways Policy

- In 2009, the CPSO implemented a registration policy containing four new pathways to registration. These new pathways further reduced barriers to registration for qualified physicians and had an immediate positive impact on issuance of new practice certificates.
- 143 practice certificates have been issued under the four pathways thus far, 87 of these issued in 2010.

PRACTICE CERTIFICATES APPROVED BY REGISTRATION COMMITTEE UNDER CPSO REGISTRATION POLICIES



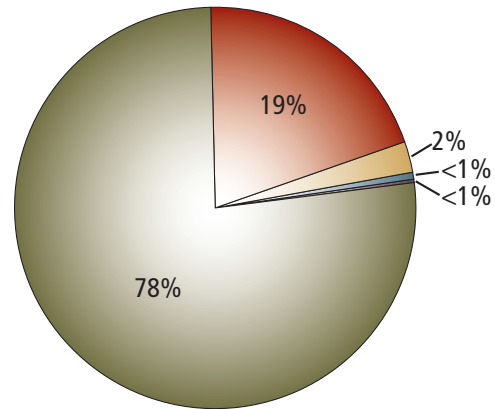
2. See Appendix 2.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE CERTIFICATES

- Independent (unsupervised) practice certificates make up 82% of the total CPSO membership (28,983 of 35,568 physicians). This is the class of certificate commonly obtained after physicians complete their post-graduate training and is held throughout their professional careers.
- In examining the practice certificates category in more detail, of the 1,617 new practice certificates issued, 1,241 certificates were of the independent practice class, the highest annual issuance since 1993.

PRACTICE CERTIFICATES ISSUANCE BY CLASS

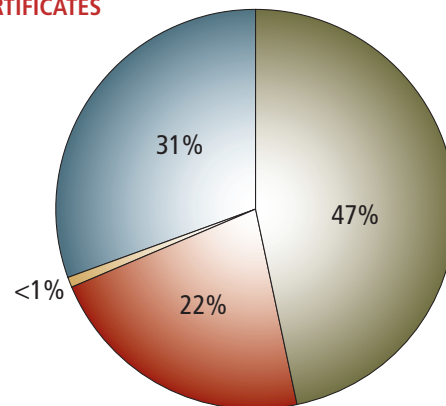
Independent Practice	1,241
Restricted	323
Short Duration	44
Academic Practice	7
Academic Visitor	2
TOTAL	1,617



i. Independent practice certificates by source of MD

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE CERTIFICATES BY SOURCE OF MD

Ontario	582
Other Canada	271
USA	10
International	378
TOTAL	1,241



ii. Independent practice certificates by specialty

- One of the main requirements for an independent practice certificate is specialty certification by one of the national certifying bodies – either the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) or the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).
- The split between RCPSC and CFPC-certified physicians receiving an independent practice certificate in 2010 was, respectively, 56% and 44%. These percentages are very consistent with those of past years; for example, in 1997, the percentages were 55% and 45%.

iii. Independent practice certificates issued to IMGs

- In 2010, 378 independent practice certificates were issued to IMGs. This was the second highest total ever, surpassed only by the 2008 record-high 393.
- Issuance of independent practice certificates to IMGs has more than tripled since 2000.

Independent Practice Certificates Issued to IMGs	
2000	107
2001	122
2002	146
2003	169
2004	192
2005	215
2006	229
2007	275
2008	393
2009	345
2010	378

Key Factors in Upward Trend of Independent Practice Certificates to IMGs

Increasing Facilitative Role of Restricted Certificates:

- An increasing number of IMGs issued an independent practice certificate have previously held a restricted certificate obtained under one of the CPSO's policies designed to facilitate entry of IMGs into practice.
- In 2010, 21% of IMGs granted an independent practice certificate had previously held a restricted certificate, clearly demonstrating the benefits of these policies as a bridge to independent practice. In 1997, before most of the policies were introduced, only 8% (10 of 130) of the IMGs who received an independent practice certificate had previously held a restricted certificate.

Key Role of Ontario Postgraduate Training Opportunities:

- About half of the IMGs issued an independent practice certificate in 2010 had previously held a postgraduate education certificate from the CPSO (185 of 378).
- This figure highlights the critical importance of the Ontario postgraduate training system as a pathway to independent practice.

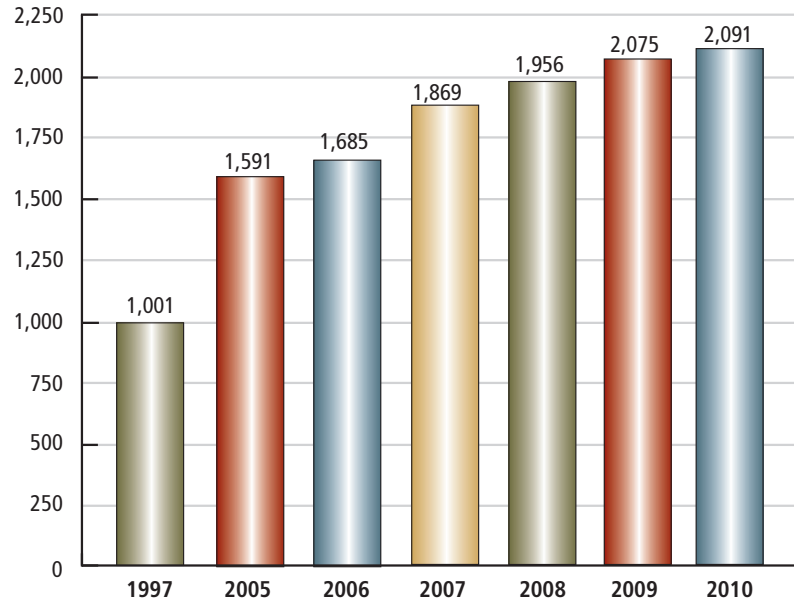
Continuing Inflow of Qualified IMGs:

- Of the IMGs issued an independent practice certificate in 2010, 27% (102 of 378) had never before held a certificate of registration of any type from the CPSO and came to Ontario fully qualified for independent practice. This shows that Ontario is a destination of choice for many qualified IMGs from across Canada and the US.

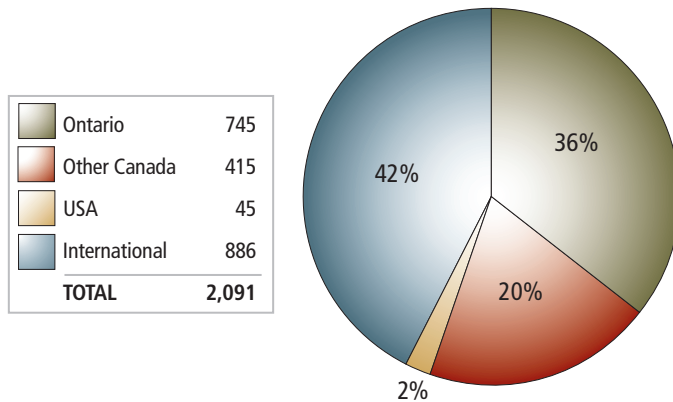
3. Postgraduate Education Certificates

- 2,091 postgraduate education certificates were issued in 2010 – the highest number issued in CPSO history.
- Issuance of postgraduate education certificates has increased every year for 13 years.

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION CERTIFICATES ISSUED SINCE 1997



POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION CERTIFICATES BY SOURCE OF MD



- 2010 was another record year of postgraduate education certificate issuance to IMGs (886).
- Last year, the IMG share of postgraduate education certificates was 42%. In 1997, IMG share was 30% (303 of 1,001) and in 1987, it was only 20% (213 of 1,058).

4. IMG Issuances by Source of MD

- 103 different countries are represented by the IMGs issued either a practice or a postgraduate education certificate in 2010:

Practice Certificates Issued in 2010 by Country Source of MD

1. India	94	6. Ireland	28
2. Pakistan	51	7. South Africa	27
3. UK	45	8. Libya	24
4. Egypt	34	9. Netherlands Antilles; Poland; Saudi Arabia	19
5. Iran	29	10. Russia	18

Postgraduate Education Certificates Issued in 2010 by Country Source of MD

1. Saudi Arabia	121	6. Pakistan	23
2. UK	73	7. Egypt	22
3. India; Ireland	68	8. Netherlands Antilles	21
4. Australia	65	9. Iran	19
5. Israel	28	10. Brazil	18

5. Total Physicians in Practice in Ontario

- The substantial increase in issuances of new certificates of registration in the last decade has had a positive impact on the overall physician supply in Ontario.
- The latest statistics available from OPHRDC show that from 2000 to 2009, the total number of physicians in active practice in Ontario, excluding postgraduate education certificate holders, rose from 20,370 to 24,358.* This is an increase of 3,988 physicians (20%).
- With postgraduate education certificate holders included, the total number of physicians in active practice in Ontario from 2000 to 2009 rose from 23,323 to 29,350. This is an increase of 6,027 physicians (26%).

Number of Physicians Practicing in Ontario from 2000 to 2009*

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Practice Certificates	20,370	20,689	21,056	21,472	21,793	22,277	22,725	23,266	23,767	24,358
Postgraduate Education Certificates	2,953	3,009	3,172	3,431	3,669	3,971	4,197	4,745	4,815	4,992
Total	23,323	23,698	24,228	24,903	25,462	26,248	26,922	28,011	28,582	29,350

*Source: Ontario Physician Human Resources Data Centre, "Physicians in Ontario" Annual Reports. 2010 report not yet available.

Appendix 1 – Classes of Certificates of Registration

1. Practice Certificates

The descriptor “Practice Certificates” includes the following classes of certificates of registration:

Independent Practice:

- permits independent practice in the areas of medicine in which the physician is educated and experienced.

Restricted:

- must practice in accordance with the specific terms and conditions imposed on the certificate.

Academic Practice:

- may practice only in the medical school department in which the physician holds an academic appointment;
- may practice only to the extent required by the appointment;
- certificate expires when the academic appointment ends.

Short Duration:

- may practice only to the extent required by the short duration appointment at a public hospital, psychiatric facility or medical school;
- must practice under supervision;
- certificate valid for up to 30 days only;
- issued only to fill urgent, short-term need or to provide education to Ontario physicians.

Academic Visitor:

- may practice only in the medical school department in which the physician holds an academic appointment;
- may practice only to the extent required by the appointment;
- certificate may be issued for up to 15 months only.

2. Postgraduate Education Certificate

A “Postgraduate Education Certificate” is obtained after graduation from medical school, and is required for postgraduate (residency) medical training at an Ontario medical school, and is not considered a “practice certificate” because the holder is in training.

Postgraduate Education:

- may practice only as required by the postgraduate education program in which the physician is enrolled at an Ontario medical school;
- may prescribe drugs only for in-patients or out-patients of a clinical teaching unit of the medical school;
- may not charge a fee for medical services;
- certificate expires when enrolment in postgraduate medical education ceases.

Appendix 2 – Facilitating Entry to Practice – CPSO Position Statement

The College is committed to finding new and creative ways to evaluate the competence and performance of individuals who wish to practice medicine in Ontario. Since 2002, we have developed numerous registration policies and programs to facilitate entry to medical practice.

The following position statement is a guiding document that grounds registration programs and policies considered by College committees involved in the practical aspects of physician registration.

The College will:

- set and maintain registration standards for candidates who wish to practice medicine in Ontario which will not be compromised in response to physician human resource needs;
- govern and administer the registration process in accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, by-laws, and policies;
- exempt individuals from the registration requirements only as allowed for in the regulation (O.Reg. 856/93, made under the *Medicine Act, 1991*) and as long as there are safeguards in place for patient care;
- proactively seek ways to reduce barriers to registration for qualified candidates by facilitating the development of pathways to registration that are fair, objective and consistent;
- collaborate and cooperate with our provincial and national partners in government, medical education and training, specialty certification and qualifying examinations to ensure a system-wide approach to physician registration;
- use valid and reliable practice-based assessment tools to evaluate the clinical knowledge, skill, judgment and performance of physicians who have extensive and independent clinical experience in another jurisdiction;
- facilitate practice monitoring and supervision for eligible physicians who are issued a restricted certificate of registration, in order to assure patient safety as each physician works toward achieving a certificate of registration to practice independently in Ontario;
- evaluate each physician's understanding and application in their practice of the ethical, legal and health care system aspects of medicine that prevail in Canada and Ontario.

The College's registration policies are available on our website at www.cpso.on.ca under Registration>Policies.



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