



Media Release

CMA, Royal College and CFPC announce the 2010 National Physician Survey

Survey of present and future physicians seeks clarity to improve Canada's health care system

(OTTAWA, May 17, 2010) Canada's three largest national health care organizations announced today that the 2010 edition of the National Physician Survey (NPS) will be launched later this month as questionnaires and electronic invitations are distributed to physicians across Canada. Surveys of medical residents and students will follow in the fall. A collaboration of the Canadian Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and The College of Family Physicians of Canada, the NPS is the largest survey of current and future physicians undertaken in Canada, with approximately 90,000 individuals invited to participate this year. The 2010 edition will build on the success of two previous editions in 2004 and in 2007.

Results from previous surveys have provided valuable data about the current priorities and interests of Canada's doctors – issues such as changing scopes of practice, barriers to care, and use of information technology. This information has been used extensively to help plan for the future, inform policy decisions, and advocate for required changes to our health care system.

“There's no doubt that the findings from the NPS have a significant impact on our ability to influence health care policy in Canada,” explained Dr. Anne Doig, President of the Canadian Medical Association. “The answers we receive help to bring clarity to important decisions that will affect physicians and their patients.”

“The 2010 NPS is updated to include questions about chronic disease management, the use of electronic health records and other current health care issues,” adds Dr. Cathy MacLean, President of The College of Family Physicians of Canada. “The new data will identify emerging issues to help physicians, governments and stakeholders plan effectively for the future.”

“The survey will also provide critical insights that we can leverage to develop strategies to address the education and training of physicians to better meet the health needs of Canadians,” explained Dr. William Fitzgerald, CM, FRCSC, President of the Royal College. “That is why it is so important for all physicians, residents and medical students to participate in this survey. We need to hear from them.”

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The 2010 National Physician Survey has been made possible through financial and in-kind contributions from the Canadian Medical Association, The College of Family Physicians of Canada, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. The survey results will be available between the Spring and Fall months of 2011. The findings will contain data breakdowns of national/provincial results, student/resident results and by specialty results.

For more information and for complete findings from the 2004 and 2007 editions of the NPS, go to **nationalphysiciansurvey.ca**.

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