



College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

Registering Success

2008 Registration Statistics

March 2009

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is the licensing and regulatory body governing the practice of medicine in Ontario. In protecting the public interest, the College is responsible for setting and maintaining medical standards, licensing physicians, and investigating and disciplining doctors.

This report contains our 2008 registration results detailing the number of licenses issued by class of certificate of registration and source of medical degree. These results are reported annually to show year-over-year changes and significant trends over time.

In 2008, we saw an increase in the number of certificates issued to practice medicine – a trend that has continued for more than a decade. In fact, last year the College issued 3,467 certificates of registration – the most ever.

Since 1998, the College has been working to find solutions to the physician resource challenge in Ontario. We established the multi-stakeholder Physician Resources Task Force to look into a number of registration-related issues, and this work has continued as new challenges and solutions have been identified.

New policies and programs recommended by the Task Force have provided greater opportunities to physicians to qualify and practice medicine, without compromising our existing high standards of registration. This success is illustrated by the record-breaking number of new licenses that have been issued each year over the past decade.

We have also been collaborating with our provincial and national partners in government, medical education and training, and specialty certification to ensure a system-wide approach to physician registration. This important work will carry on so that we can continuously improve access to quality care for the public of Ontario.

2008 Highlights

Record-breaking number of licenses issued:

- In 2008, the CPSO issued 3,467 certificates of registration – our highest annual total in history.
- This total surpassed the number issued in 2007 by 188 certificates (6%).
- International Medical Graduate (IMG) percentage of total issuance was 43.4%, the highest ever. By comparison, IMGs had 26% of the total 10 years ago and only 16% 20 years ago.
- Of the 3,467 certificates of registration issued, 1,511 were practice certificates (includes all classes of certificates except postgraduate education certificates).
- Last year, 1,956 postgraduate education certificates were issued.
- Last year's issuance of 1,511 practice certificates was the highest number issued since 1985.
- In 2008, 393 independent practice certificates were issued to IMGs (33%). Independent (unsupervised) practice certificates made up 80% of the practice certificates issued last year. This set a new record, surpassing the previous record reached in 1985 by 22%, when 322 independent practice certificates were issued to IMGs.

- It also surpassed 2007's issuance of 275 independent practice certificates to IMGs by 43%, a record one-year increase.
- Issuance of independent practice certificates to IMGs has nearly quadrupled since 2000.

Positive results from CPSO registration policies:

- 2008 was another record year for issuance of practice certificates under CPSO registration policies and programs introduced since 2002 to increase physician resources (e.g., Assistant Professor policy, Restricted Registration policy, and Registration through Practice Assessment program).
- 294 practice certificates were approved by the CPSO's Registration Committee in 2008 (mostly restricted certificates) and 1,355 have been approved

since 2002. By comparison, in 1995, the Registration Committee approved only 25 practice certificates.

- Without these policies and programs, most of the 1,355 applicants would not have been issued a practice certificate.
- IMGs accounted for 78% of the 294 Registration Committee approvals in 2008.

Physician supply increasing:

- From 1997 to 2007, the total number of physicians in active practice in Ontario, excluding postgraduate education certificate holders, rose from 20,133 to 23,266. This is an increase of 3,133 physicians (16%).

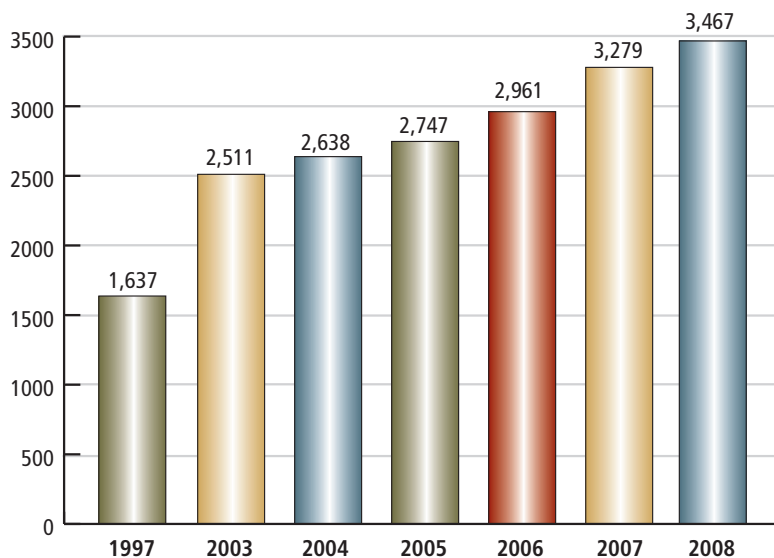
2008 REGISTRATION STATISTICS

1. Total Issuances

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

- In 2008, the CPSO issued 3,467 certificates of registration – our highest ever annual total.
- The 2008 total surpassed the number issued in 2007 by 188 certificates (6%).
- For the past 11 years, the total issuance has increased every year. Total issuance in 2008 was more than double the 1997 total.

TOTAL CERTIFICATES ISSUED SINCE 1997:



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

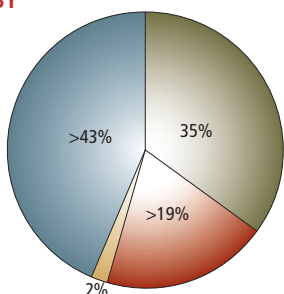
Why the Increase?

For more than a decade, all categories of graduates – Ontario, Canadian and international – have seen increased issuance. 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 new CPSO registration policies • more Ministry of Health-funded IMG residency positions • opening up of both iterations of CaRMS match (see Appendix 1) • 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 new CPSO registration policies

TOTAL ISSUANCES BY SOURCE OF MD:

Ontario	1,222
Other Canada	668
USA	74
International	1,503
TOTAL	3,467



- For the fifth straight year, more certificates were issued to IMGs than to Ontario graduates.
- Since 1997, issuance to IMGs has more than tripled.
- In 2008, IMGs had 43.4% of the total issuance, the highest in CPSO history. By comparison, IMGs had 26% of the total 10 years ago and only 16% 20 years ago.

Total Certificates Issued to IMGs Since 1997

1997	481
2003	962
2004	1,069
2005	1,082
2006	1,247
2007	1,403
2008	1,503

2. Practice Certificates

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

- Of the 3,467 certificates of registration issued, 1,511 were **practice certificates** (1,956 were postgraduate education certificates).
- Last year's issuance of 1,511 practice certificates was the highest number of practice certificates 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 6.

Practice Certificates Issuance Since 1997

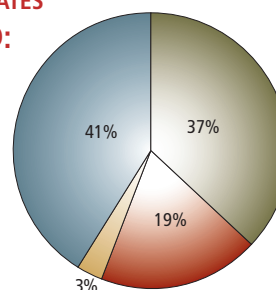
1997	636
2003	1,035
2004	1,111
2005	1,156
2006	1,276
2007	1,410
2008	1,511

Practice certificates issuance by class:

Independent practice	1,201	(80%)
Restricted	261	(17%)
Short duration	36	(2%)
Academic practice	12	(<1%)
Academic visitor	1	(<1%)
Total	1,511	

PRACTICE CERTIFICATES BY SOURCE OF MD:

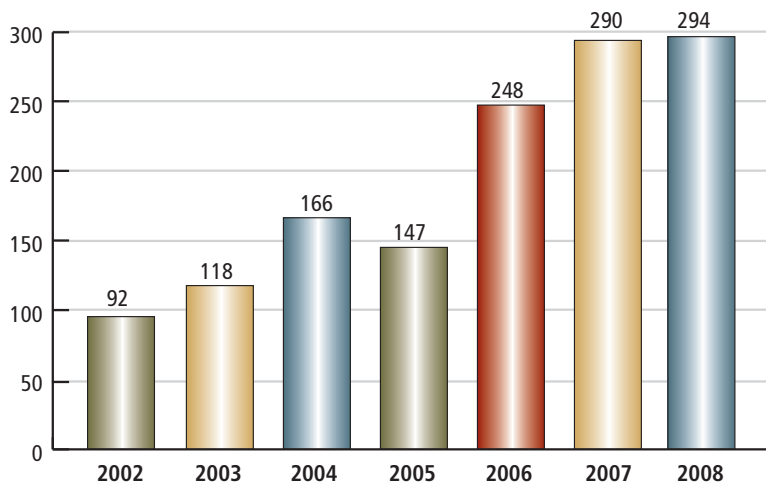
Ontario	557
Other Canada	292
USA	41
International	621
TOTAL	1,511



Practice certificates issued under CPSO registration policies

- 2008 was another record year for issuance of practice certificates under CPSO registration policies and programs introduced since 2002 to increase physician resources (e.g., Assistant Professor policy, Restricted Registration policy, and Registration through Practice Assessment program).
- The CPSO's Registration Committee approved issuance of 294 practice certificates in 2008 (mostly restricted certificates) and has approved 1,355 since 2002. By comparison, in 1995, the Registration Committee approved only 25 practice certificates.
- Without these policies and programs, most of the 1,355 applicants would not have been issued a practice certificate.
- IMGs accounted for 78% of the 294 Registration Committee approvals in 2008.

PRACTICE CERTIFICATES APPROVED BY REGISTRATION COMMITTEE UNDER CPSO REGISTRATION POLICIES

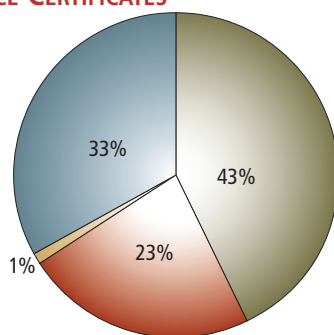


INDEPENDENT PRACTICE CERTIFICATES

- Independent practice certificates made up 80% of the new practice certificates issued. This was 10% more than in 2007 (1,089) and was the highest annual issuance of independent practice certificates in 15 years.
- Of the 1,511 new practice certificates issued, 1,201 certificates were in the independent practice class. As the name suggests, this type of certificate permits independent (unsupervised) practice in the areas of medicine in which the physician is educated and experienced.
- Independent practice certificates make up 83% of the total CPSO membership (28,003 of 33,900 physicians).

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE CERTIFICATES BY SOURCE OF MD:

Ontario	515
Other Canada	282
USA	11
International	393
TOTAL	1,201



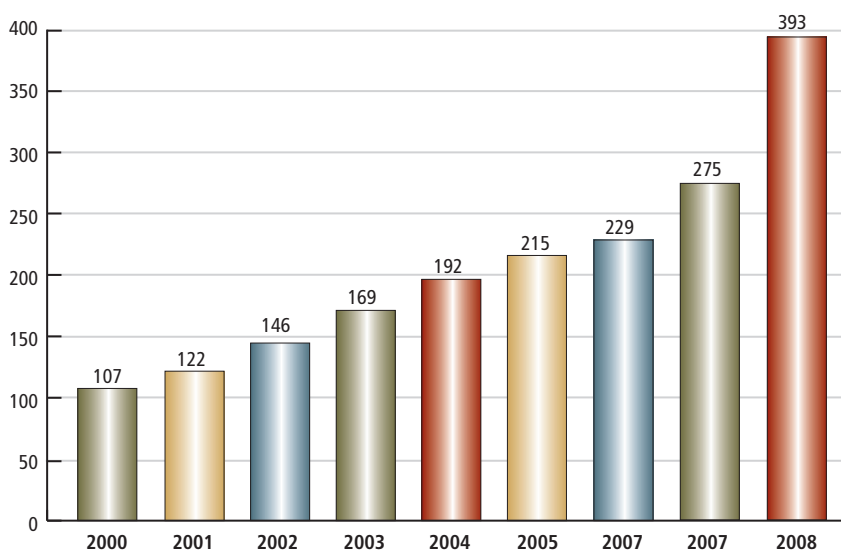
Independent practice certificates by specialty

- 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 2008 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%.

Independent practice certificates issued to IMGs

- In 2008, 393 independent practice certificates were issued to IMGs (33%). This set a new record, surpassing the previous record reached in 1985 by 22%, when 322 independent practice certificates were issued to IMGs.
- It also surpassed 2007's issuance of 275 independent practice certificates to IMGs by 43%, a record one-year increase.
- 2008 marked the eighth straight year of increasing issuance of independent practice certificates to IMGs. Issuance to IMGs has nearly quadrupled since 2000.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE CERTIFICATES ISSUES TO IMGs



Issuance of independent practice certificates to IMGs has nearly quadrupled since 2000.

The following are key factors behind the record number of independent practice certificates issued to IMGs in 2008:

Increasing Facilitative Role of Restricted Certificates

An increasing number of IMGs being 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 2008, a record-high 33% (130 of 393) fell into this category, 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

Of the 393 IMGs issued an independent practice certificate in 2008, 239 (61%) had previously held a postgraduate education certificate from the CPSO.

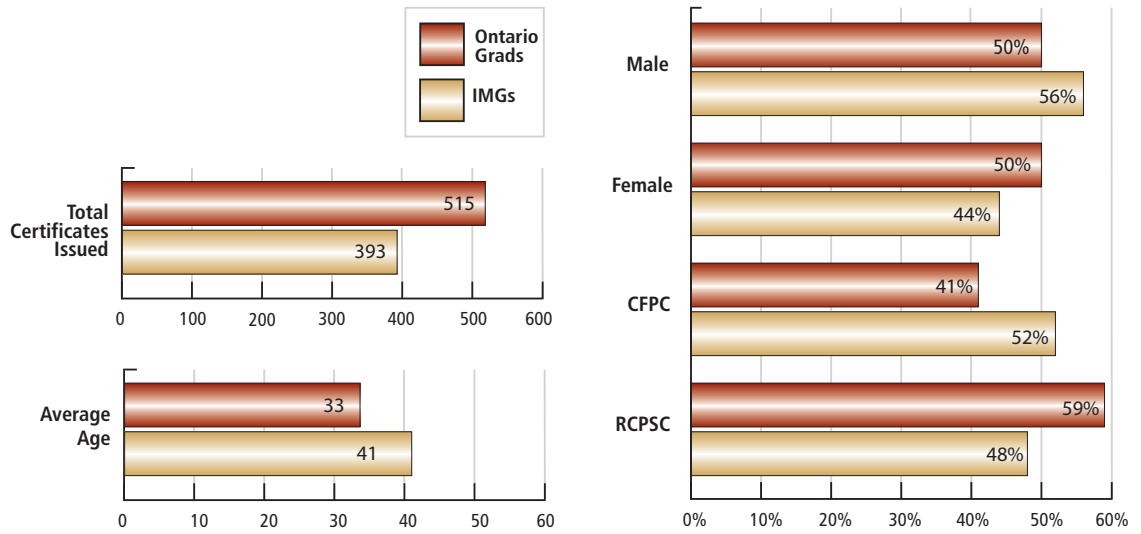
In 1997, the numbers were lower (82 of 130), but the percentage was nearly the same (63%). These figures highlight both the expanding pool of postgraduate training opportunities for IMGs over the past decade, as well as the continuing critical importance of the Ontario postgraduate training system as a pathway to independent practice.

Continuing Inflow of Qualified IMGs

Of the IMGs issued an independent practice certificate in 2008, 24% (95 of 393) had never before held a certificate of registration of any type from the CPSO and came to Ontario fully qualified for independent practice. This percentage is consistent with previous years (e.g., 25% in 1997) and shows that Ontario continues to be the province of choice for many qualified IMGs from across Canada and the US.

Demographic profiles of Ontario graduates and IMGs

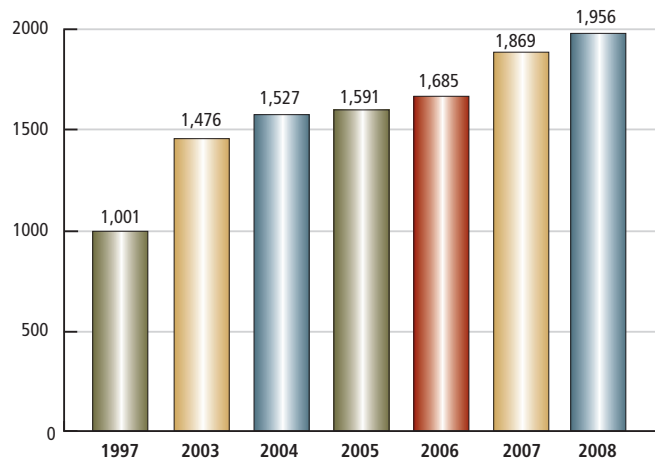
The following compares the demographic profiles of Ontario graduates and IMGs issued an independent practice certificate in 2008. These profiles have been fairly consistent over the past several years.



3. Postgraduate Education Certificates

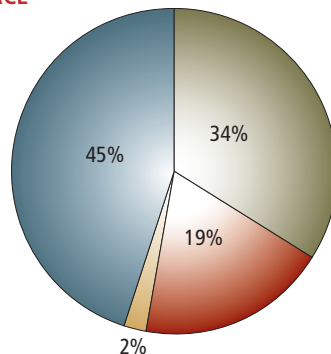
POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION CERTIFICATES ISSUED SINCE 1997

- 2008 issuance of postgraduate education certificates was the highest in CPSO history.
- Issuance of postgraduate education certificates has increased for 11 straight years.



POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION CERTIFICATES BY SOURCE OF MD

Ontario	665
Other Canada	376
USA	33
International	882
TOTAL	1,956



- 2008 was another record year of issuances of postgraduate education certificates to IMGs (882 in total), surpassing 2007's record issuance of 864 by 2%.
- IMG percentage of postgraduate education certificates in 2008 was 45%, nearly equaling 2007's record-high of 46%. In 1997, IMGs had 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 2008. The following details the top ten countries of origin by source of medical degree:

Practice Certificates Issued in 2008 by Country Source of MD

1. India	114	6. Germany	24
2. Egypt	41	7. Libya	23
Pakistan	41		
3. UK	36	8. South Africa	22
4. Ireland	31	9. Brazil	18
		Russia	18
5. Iran	27	10. Romania	14

Postgraduate Education Certificates Issued in 2008 by Country Source of MD

1. Saudi Arabia	111	6. Ireland	32
2. India	86	7. Iran	29
3. UK	77	8. Pakistan	28
4. Australia	46	9. Israel	27
5. Egypt	38	10. Brazil	20

5. Total Physicians in Practice in Ontario

- The substantial increase in issuances of new certificates of registration since 1997 has had a positive impact on physician supply in Ontario.
- The latest statistics available from the Ontario Physician Human Resources Data Centre show that from 1997 to 2007, the total number of physicians in active practice in Ontario, excluding postgraduate education certificate holders, rose from 20,133 to 23,266. This is an increase of 3,133 physicians (16%).
- With postgraduate education certificate holders included, the total number of physicians in active practice in Ontario from 1997 to 2007 rose from 22,868 to 28,011. This is an increase of 5,143 physicians (23%).

Number of Physicians Practicing in Ontario from 1997 to 2007*

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Practice Certificates	20,133	20,265	20,480	20,370	20,689	21,056	21,472	21,793	22,277	22,725	23,266
Postgraduate Education Certificates	2,735	2,764	2,846	2,953	3,009	3,172	3,431	3,669	3,971	4,197	4,745
Total	22,868	23,029	23,326	23,323	23,698	24,228	24,903	25,462	26,248	26,922	28,011

*Source: Ontario Physician Human Resources Data Centre, "Physicians in Ontario" Annual Reports.

Appendix 1

1. 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 thirty 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. 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.

3. The Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) is a not-for-profit organization that works with medical schools and students to provide an electronic application service and a computer match for entry into postgraduate medical training throughout Canada.

The match for entry level postgraduate positions in all 17 Canadian medical schools are offered in two iterations. The first iteration includes all graduating students and graduates from Canada, the US and international medical schools (IMGs) who meet the eligibility criteria of CaRMS. The second iteration is offered for positions and applicants who were not matched in the first iteration, and also includes applicants who have had previous North American postgraduate training who wish to apply for an entry position in Canada.



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