

Physician payments

Background information for the media

Physicians in Canada are paid in two principal ways: through fee-for-service (FFS) arrangements and alternative payment plans (APPs).

FFS refers to when a physician sees a patient and submits a claim to a medical care plan for payment of the service provided, such as an annual physical or surgical procedure. FFS represents nearly 73% of all physician clinical payments in Canada.

APP (the remaining 27%) refers to payment methods other than FFS, such as salary, sessional (payments by hour or per diem) and capitation (remuneration for the number of patients in a physician's practice). The proportion of APP varies greatly by specialty and jurisdiction. As a whole, however, it is growing.

Past CIHI indicators on physician compensation—physicians earning at least \$60,000 in FFS payments and full-time equivalence (a count of physicians adjusted for different levels of work intensity)—were based on only the FFS component of total remuneration.

The new *average gross clinical payment* indicator simplifies these measures and provides a more complete picture of spending on physician services.

Along with FFS and APP details, results for this new indicator by jurisdiction are available in this year's National Physician Database data release.

Our Vision

Better data. Better decisions.
Healthier Canadians.

Our Mandate

To lead the development and maintenance of comprehensive and integrated health information that enables sound policy and effective health system management that improve health and health care.

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Collaboration,
Excellence, Innovation
