



SGP BULLETIN

July 19, 2017

Physician Resource Planning

Dear Family Physician,

By now many of us have heard and read information regarding this controversial issue.

It is unarguable that any changes in this area can significantly impact family physicians and the livelihood of our practices.

Alberta Health has expressed concern over the maldistribution of primary care physicians in the province. Over the past few years, there has been a disproportionate increase in physicians in the Edmonton/Calgary urban areas compared to other areas of the province.

As mentioned in the last AMA [President's Letter](#) regarding this topic, the Minister has established the Physician Resource Planning Committee (PRPC) that will hopefully advise the Minister on developing a sustainable, needs-based physician resource plan. The PRPC includes representation from AMA, AH, AHS and other stakeholders, who will work collaboratively to assess physician resource issues around the province.

The Section of General Practice, along with the AMA, has clearly communicated to government that any physician resource issues affecting primary care must include participation of family physicians and our clinics. Government has recognized the importance of this. It is critical to us that we maintain the ability to recruit and retain family physicians in our clinics for the sake of the livelihood of our clinics.

Presently, there have been no new policies established by the PRPC, nor the Minister, that are limiting physicians' ability to establish a practice. This includes residents that are completing their training this year. The Minister's intent is to establish policy on additional physicians by 2018-19.

It is unclear exactly how community physicians and clinics will be engaged in the process of physician resource planning, but the AMA and SGP are working on a framework to propose. This will require some challenging decisions, but once again - - it is better for us to be involved and demonstrate leadership in this area rather than the opposite.

This direct involvement can also potentially strengthen our position on physician resource planning in areas of the province where AHS has restrictive unilateral control on family physician recruitment.

We will keep you updated on further information in this area as we receive it.

As always, please e-mail if you have feedback at gppres@albertadoctors.org.

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.D.L.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Darryl D. LaBuick
President - AMA Section of General Practice

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