

## Physician Survey 2010

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North Shore Division of Family Practice

The North Shore Division of Family Practice collected information through a survey to create a comprehensive data base to better understand the physician workforce on the North Shore. The data collection occurred between July 11 and September 2, 2010 and yielded a total of 94 responses (three were entered after that date).

## **METHODOLOGY**

We hired a summer college student to carry out the survey. A variety of methods were implemented to achieve the results which included: an online survey; targeted emails; telephone calls; office visits; and hard copies of the survey both left in family physician's hospital mail boxes and sent through regular mail.

Emails generated 65 responses; hard copy mail out/ hospital boxes 17 responses; office visits 7 responses; and phone calls 5 responses.

Future surveys would benefit from hard copy mail out at the beginning of the survey. This would also allow more time for the recipients to return their response prior to the survey end date.

## **RESULTS**

The survey was divided up into ten sections; Practice Type, Areas of Special Interest, Maternity, Palliative Care, Walk-in, Long Term Care, Future Plans, Locum availability, Working with Allied Health Professionals, and Electronic Medical Records. Each section and corresponding results are discussed.

### ***Practice Type***

- 87% have a family practice and the majority have multiple MOAs working a combination of full and part-time hours
- Most practices averaged 1700 patients
- 80% are not accepting new patients
- The number of hours spent doing paper work is as follows:
  - 24 GPs 0-5 hours; 33 GPs 6-10 hours; 11 GPs 11-15 hours; and 4 GPs 15 or more hours
- The average work day has 1.5 hours of paperwork.

### ***Areas of Special Interest***

- 34% have an area of special interest with the most common being obstetrics, followed by geriatrics and palliative care
- The amount of time spent on the special interest varied greatly, but the average time spent was approximately 20 hours a week
- 45% do accept referrals

### ***Maternity***

- 10% provide maternity care at Lions Gate Hospital and perform approximately 4 - 5 deliveries per month

### ***Palliative Care***

- 70% do not provide inpatient care at Lions Gate Hospital
- 37% do not provide palliative care in the community
- 83% have an after-hours call group
- 77% do house calls
- 64% prefer to manage their own patient's palliative care

### ***Walk-in***

- 42% work in a North Shore walk-in clinic
- The average number of hours worked at the walk in clinics is 7 hours per week

### ***Long Term Care***

- 63% provide long term care to patients ranging from 0 to 150 patient with a median of 20 patients
- On average GPs visit four different long term care facilities

### ***Future Plans***

- 16% of respondents do want to increase their work hours in the next year by an average of eight hours per week
- However, 18% plan to reduce their work hours by an average of 2 days per week

### ***Locums***

- 6% provide locum services

### ***Allied Health Professionals***

- 28% work with an allied health professional e.g., nurse practitioner, physiotherapist, psychologist or a registered massage therapist
- 60% feel this collaboration has reduced their overall work load

### ***EMR***

- 61% use EMR
- 22 use Wolf; 14 use Intrahealth; 9 use Oscar; 4 use Nightingale; 4 use Osler; 2 use Plexia; and, 2 use MAC Custom software;