

Canadian Family Physician Preferences on Updating the Classification System for Health Conditions and Related Issues

Préférences des médecins de famille canadiens sur la mise à jour du système de classification pour les problèmes de santé et questions connexes

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TABLE 1. Participating family physician demographics and clinical characteristics

Demographic and practice characteristics	Study participants (<i>N</i> = 161)	Family physicians in Canada, 2022 (<i>N</i> = 48,199; Canadian Institute for Health Information) (CIHI 2023)
Gender, <i>n</i> (%)		
Woman	90 (55.9)	23,972 (49.7)*
Man	57 (35.4)	24,219 (50.2)*
Non-binary or transgender	2 (1.2)	
<i>Prefer not to answer, do not know or missing</i>	12 (7.5)	
Age (years), mean (SD)	41.1 (10.8)	49.3
Years in practice, median (IQR)	7.0 (10.3)	
Career category, <i>n</i> (%)		
Early career (≤ 10 years in practice)	101 (62.7)	10,733 (22.3)
Mid-career (11-20 years in practice)	33 (20.5)	11,079 (23.0)
Mid-late career (21-30 years in practice)	12 (7.5)	9,655 (20.0)
Late career (>30 years in practice)	14 (8.7)	14,471 (30.0)
<i>Missing</i>	1 (0.6)	2,261 (4.7)
FTEs of clinical care, median (IQR)	0.8 (0.4)	
Province, <i>n</i> (%)		
Ontario	59 (36.6)	17,416 (36.1)
Saskatchewan	47 (29.2)	1,406 (2.9)
Alberta	35 (21.7)	5,417 (11.2)
British Columbia	14 (8.7)	7,523 (15.6)
Manitoba	2 (1.2)	1,570 (3.3)
Newfoundland and Labrador	4 (2.5)	702 (1.5)

Demographic and practice characteristics	Study participants (N = 161)	Family physicians in Canada, 2022 (N = 48,199; Canadian Institute for Health Information) (CIHI 2023)
Practice location, n (%)		
Urban	115 (71.4)	41,911 (87.0)
Rural or remote	22 (13.7)	6,162 (12.8)
Missing	24 (14.9)	126 (0.3)
Practice setting, n (%)		
Academic practice only	35 (21.7)	
Other [§]	126 (78.3)	
Patient panel size, n (%)		
Less than 500	39 (24.2)	
501 to 1,000	55 (34.2)	
1,001 to 1,500	40 (24.8)	
1,501 to 2,000	18 (11.2)	
Over 2,000	7 (4.3)	
Missing	2 (1.2)	
Use an EMR system in practice, n (%)	151 (93.8)	
Part of a team-based practice, n (%)	125 (77.6)	
Practice personnel,[¶] n (%)		
Admin/front desk support staff	152 (94.4)	
Clinic manager	137 (85.1)	
Nurse practitioner/RN/LPN	116 (72.0)	
Billing personnel	103 (64.0)	
Data/EMR specialist or analyst	58 (36.0)	
QI staff/evaluator	46 (28.6)	
Physician assistant	18 (11.2)	
Physical and/or occupational therapist	16 (9.9)	
Social worker	15 (9.3)	
Pharmacist	11 (6.8)	

EMR = electronic medical record; FTE = full-time equivalent; IQR = interquartile range; LPN = licensed practical nurse; QI = quality improvement; RN = registered nurse.

* Canadian Institute for Health Information reports on physician sex (i.e., males, females), which differs from our demographic survey question asking about gender (i.e., men, women).

§ Other included a mix of practice types such as: academic, community, hospital, homeless shelters and/or private, health region-managed settings, homeless shelters and Indigenous health outreach.

¶ Respondents could select as many options as applicable.

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TABLE 2. Preferences for and confidence in alternative systems to replace ICD-9

	N respondents	Percentage (95% CI)
Do you think the current ICD-9 system used in Canada should be replaced?		
Yes	94	58.4 (50.9, 66.4)
Maybe, depends on the new system	57	35.4 (28.0, 43.4)
No	2	1.2 (0.0, 9.3)
Unsure	8	5.0 (0.0, 13.0)
How confident would you feel learning a new classification system if Canada was to adopt one?		
Very confident	93	57.8 (50.3, 65.7)
Somewhat confident	46	28.6 (21.1, 36.5)
Not at all confident	5	3.1 (0.0, 11.0)
Unsure	5	3.1 (0.0, 11.0)
Would you feel confident using ICD-11 in your clinical practice?		
Yes	112	69.6 (62.7, 76.5)
No	9	5.6 (0.0, 12.5)
Maybe	32	19.9 (13.0, 26.8)
Unsure	7	4.3 (0.0, 11.2)
Would you feel confident using ICPC-3 in your clinical practice?		
Yes	99	61.5 (54.7, 69.6)
No	15	9.3 (2.5, 17.4)
Maybe	40	24.8 (18.0, 32.9)
Unsure	5	3.1 (0.0, 11.2)
After completing the patient vignette coding exercise, would you prefer ICD-11 or ICPC-3 for billing submissions?		
Yes - I prefer ICD-11	42	26.1 (18.0, 34.3)
Yes - I prefer ICPC-3	41	25.5 (17.4, 33.6)
Either would be acceptable	63	39.1 (31.1, 47.3)
Neither is acceptable	5	3.1 (0.0, 11.3)
Unsure	8	5.0 (0.0, 13.1)
After completing the patient vignette coding exercise, would you prefer ICD-11 or ICPC-3 for clinical documentation in your EMR system?		
Yes - I prefer ICD-11	52	32.3 (24.2, 40.4)
Yes - I prefer ICPC-3	42	26.1 (18.0, 34.2)
Either would be acceptable	47	29.2 (21.1, 37.3)
Neither is acceptable	7	4.3 (0.0, 12.5)
Unsure	12	7.5 (0.0, 15.6)
Overall, how satisfied were you with ICD-11?		
Very satisfied	36	22.4 (14.9, 30.3)
Somewhat satisfied	88	54.7 (47.2, 62.6)
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	11.2 (3.7, 19.1)
Somewhat dissatisfied	16	9.9 (2.5, 17.8)
Very dissatisfied	3	1.9 (0.0, 9.8)

	N respondents	Percentage (95% CI)
Overall, how satisfied were you with ICPC-3?		
Very satisfied	42	26.1 (18.6, 34.5)
Somewhat satisfied	76	47.2 (39.8, 55.6)
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	11.2 (3.7, 19.6)
Somewhat dissatisfied	22	13.7 (6.2, 22.0)
Very dissatisfied	1	0.6 (0.0, 9.0)

CI = confidence interval; EMR = electronic medical record; ICD-9 = International Classification of Diseases version 9;
 ICD-11 = International Classification of Diseases version 11; ICPC-3 = International Classification for Primary Care version 3.