

SESSION 1: MEDICAL WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS AND POLICY UPDATE

Authors were asked to use the following guidelines in preparing their papers.

Prepare a short document providing an overview of physician workforce characteristics and "hot" policy topics in each country. This is intended to provide background information for conference participants so as to enrich discussion on conference themes and inter-country comparisons.

Please provide data on the most recent year available and time trends for the past five years, if possible, on the following:

1 Physician supply

Please provide the following data with a breakdown (where available) on female/male and domestic/foreign basic medical education (ie. MD):

- total number of physicians;
- total population;
- number of physicians per 100,000 population;
- number of general practitioners and number per 100,000 population;
- number of specialists and number per 100,000 population;
 - number of surgical specialists per population
 - number of medical specialists per population
 - number of laboratory specialists per population
 - number of paediatric specialists per population
- number of unemployed physicians.

(Note: ensure that doctors in training are separated from doctors practising)

2 General description of organisational models of care (primary care and specialty care)

- funding methods;
- predominant methods of payment;
- types of employment (eg. private practice, health maintenance organisation employment/contract, hospital employment/contract, government employment/contract, etc.); and
- proportion of primary care and specialty physicians in each employment situation

3 Domestic production

- undergraduate enrolment levels;
- postgraduate entry level posts (general practice, surgical, medical, laboratory and paediatric);
- number of visa trainees (foreign nationals); and
- total number of postgraduate training posts.

4 Immigration

- overview of policies/categories; and
- number of entrants to country per annum by category.

Definitions

Please include a section on the definitions of common terms used in the preparation of the paper.

Hot topics and trends

Identify any hot policy questions (and provide a one or two paragraph description) in relation to:

- supply;
- mix;
- distribution;
- organisational models/funding;
- interdisciplinary models of care;
- production;
- immigration; and
- flashpoints of debate between government and stakeholders.