

Charles, L. Covenant Health care of the elderly graduates survey (Poster presentation)

Lesley Charles, MBChB, CCFP– Asst. Professor, Family Med; Program Director, Care of the Elderly Postgraduate Program, UofA
Lesley.Charles@albertahealthservices.ca

Context. In recognition of the increased health care needs of a growing senior population, the Enhanced Skills Diploma program for training Family Physicians in Care of the Elderly (COE) at the University of Alberta, Canada was developed. Fifty-one residents have completed the program to date. However knowledge on where COE graduates practice after completing their training, whether they are prepared for practice, whether they utilize their training, how they are remunerated, and their satisfaction with their professional life is unknown.

Objective. To examine patterns of practice of University of Alberta COE graduates.

Design. Survey methodology using SurveyMonkey. The open and closed ended questionnaire was adapted from an existing University of Alberta's Family Medicine Graduate Survey.

Results. Response rate was 83% (n = 39). The percent of time spent in practice was highest for office setting practice (36%) followed by inpatient acute care (27%). All respondents felt very prepared or somewhat prepared for practice upon program completion. 80% of former COE residents were working an average 0.7 FTE as a COE physician. The most common type of reimbursement for clinical time was through a Clinical Alternative Relationship Plan reimbursement (48%) followed by fee-for-service (26%). A very high percentage of respondents (97%) were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their professional life.

Conclusions. COE training has allowed graduates to work in a variety of clinical, academic, administrative, and research roles with level of satisfaction that is which significantly higher than in another national survey of Canadian physicians. The high percentage of graduates on ARP highlights the need for alternative funding for this time consuming work. Results of the research also will allow us to identify any program weaknesses and improve curriculum and training.