Career Options and Professional Integration of Internationally Trained Physicians in Canada.

Description

Sanjida Newaz, MBBS, MSc

Canadian Health Policy, October 2020. ISSN 2562-9492 www.canadianhealthpolicy.com

ABSTRACT

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) face considerable challenges in obtaining license for medical practice as well as finding other professional employment in healthcare in Canada. The "brain waste" of IMGs and an existing physician shortage in Canada, could be considered related concerns. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of licensure processes for IMGs in Canada while examining the reasons for IMGs low success in residency matching. Alternate and suitable career options for IMGs in healthcare are discussed. Finally, the paper provides recommendations on strategies Canada and IMGs can utilize for mutual benefits.

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

The author is a Research Analyst with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Research Department, Wascana Rehabilitation Center, Regina. Saskatchewan Health Authority did not have any involvement in this study.

SUBMISSION DATE

September 15, 2020

PUBLICATION DATE

October 14, 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author acknowledges Leslie Carrothers (PhD) and Natalie Riediger (PhD) of the University of Manitoba, and Mohammed Rashidul Anwar (MBBS, MSc) of the Hospital for Sick Children, for their helpful feedback on earlier drafts of the manuscript.

©Canadian Health Policy Institute Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction or distribution of this article in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

REFERENCES

Banner, S. (2017, October 2). Look abroad to solve Canada's doctor distribution problem. Toronto Sun. Toronto, Ontario. Retrieved from https://torontosun.com/2017/10/02/look-abroad-to-solve-canadas-

doctor-distribution-problem/wcm/a26b4091-f86b-4b72-a85a-46a646096dd7

Barer, M. L., & Stoddart, G. L. (1991). Toward Integrated Medical Resource Policies for Canada.

Bosco, C., & Oandasan, I. (2016). Review of Family Medicine Within Rural and Remote Canada?: Education, Practice, and Policy. Retrieved from Mississauga, ON: https://www.cfpc.ca/uploadedFiles/Publications/News_Releases/News_Items/ARFM_BackgroundPaper_E

Brend, Y. (2017, May 4). We're graduating more doctors than ever, so why is it so hard to find a GP? CBC News. Retrieved from https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-doctor-shortage-medical-fees-1.4100251

Buske, L. (2013). What countries produce Canada's International Medical Graduates? Canadian Collaborative Centre for Physician Resources, Canadian Medical Association. Retrieved from https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/advocacy/34-IMGs-e.pdf

Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA). (2018). Historical Timeline. Retrieved December 1, 2018, from https://capa-acam.ca/historical-timeline/

Canadian Institue for Health Information. (2016). Physicians in Canada 2016 -Summary Report. Retrieved from Ottawa: https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/Physicians_in_Canada_2016.pdf

Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2009). Analysis in Brief taking health information further: Analysis in Brief. International Medical Graduates in Canada?: 1972 to 2007. Retrieved from https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/img_1972-2007_aib_e.pdf

Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2019). Physicians in Canada 2018 -Summary Report. Retrieved from Ottawa: https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/physicians-in-canada-2018.pdf

Canadian Medical Association. (2018). Physician Data Centre: Canadian physician statistics. Retrieved August 2, 2020, from https://www.cma.ca/En/Pages/canadian-physician-statistics.aspx

Canadian Medical Association. (2020). Quick facts on Canada's physicians. Retrieved August 4, 2020, from https://www.cma.ca/quick-facts-canadas-physicians

Canadian Post?MD Education Registry. (2016). Fact sheet on the National IMG Database. Retrieved from Ottawa: https://caper.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/fact-sheets/FactSheet-NationalIMGDatabase_en.pdf

Dove, N. (2009). Podium: Doctors Speak Out. Can international medical graduates help solve Canada's shortage of rural physicians? Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine, 14(120–123).

Dumont, J., Zurn, P., Church, J., & Thi, C. Le. (2008). International Mobility of Health Professionals and Health Workforce Management in Canada?: Myths and Realities. Retrieved from http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/41590427.pdf

Esmail, N. (2016). Canada's Physician Supply – Doctor-to-population ratio will decline unless Canada becomes more reliant on foreign-trained physicians. From the Archives. Retrieved from https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/canadas-physician-supply-csr-winter-2016.pdf

Frangou, C. (2017, December 8). The Rural Doctor Shortage and Why You Should Care About It. Avenuecalgary. Calgary, AB. Retrieved from https://www.avenuecalgary.com/City-Life/The-Rural-Doctor-Shortage-and-Why-You-Should-Care-About-It/

Globerman, S., Barua, B., & Hasan, S. (2018). The Supply of Physicians in Canada Projections and Assessment. Retrieved from http://www.fraserinstitute.org

Government of Canada. (2020). Eligibility to apply as a Federal Skilled Worker (Express Entry). Retrieved July 31, 2020, from https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/federal-skilled-workers.html

Harford, E. (2016, July 1). The Canadian dream: New immigrants ready to sacrifice and struggle for kids' future. Ottawa Citizen. Retrieved from https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/the-canadian-dream-new-immigrants-ready-to-sacrifice-and-struggle-for-kids-future

Health HR Group. (2013). IMG Pathways in Canada. Retrieved from Ottawa: https://caper.ca/~assets/IMG Pathways in Canada.pdf

Islam, N. (2014). Policy Brief The dilemma of physician shortage and international recruitment in Canada, 3(1), 29–32. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.15171/ijhpm.2014.53

Lofters, A., Slater, M., Fumakia, N., & Thulien, N. (2014). "Brain drain" and "brain waste": experiences of international medical graduates in Ontario. Risk Management and Healthcare Policy, 7, 81–89.

Mcintosh, T., Torgerson, R., & Klassen, N. (2007). The Ethical Recruitment of Internationally Educated Health Professionals?: Lessons from Abroad and Options for Canada Abroad and Options for Canada. Retrieved from Ottawa:

Medical Council of Canada. (2020). Route to licensure. Retrieved July 25, 2020, from https://mcc.ca/about/route-to-licensure/

Ministry of Health and Long-term Care Ontario. (2018). Health Workforce Planning Branch. International Medical Graduates (IMG). Retrieved November 26, 2018, from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/hhrsd/physicians/international_medical_graduates.aspx

Monavvari, A. A., Peters, C., & Feldman, P. (2015). International medical graduates. Canadian Family Physician, 61, 205–208.

physiciansapply.ca. (2020). How to Become a Practising Physician in Canada. Retrieved August 3, 2020, from https://physiciansapply.ca/how-to-become-a-practising-physician-in-canada/

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. (2020). International medical graduates. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/credentials-exams/assessment-international-medical-graduates-e#ac1

Sumalinog, R., Zacharias, Alisha Aarti, Rana Johnson, T., & Li, S. (2016). Backgrounder?: International Medical Graduates and the Canadian Health Care System. Retrieved from

http://www.old.cfms.org/attachments/article/1370/BACKGROUNDER – IMGs AND THE CANADIAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.pdf

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada. (2014a). Future MD Canada International Medical Graduates Q2c?: How does a citizen or permanent resident of Canada who completed a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree and post-MD training abroad obtain a license to practise as a physician in Canada?? Retrieved from https://afmc.ca/sites/default/files/qa/Q2c.pdf

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada. (2014b). International Medical Graduates and Canadians Studying Medicine Abroad. Retrieved from https://afmc.ca/pdf/datapoint/IMG-CSA_DataPoint_update_Jan-2014.pdf

The Canadian Resident Matching Service. (2020). 2020 CaRMS Forum. Retrieved from https://www.carms.ca/pdfs/2020-carms-forum.pdf

The College of Family Physicians of Canada. (2018). Recognized Training and Certification outside Canada. Retrieved June 26, 2020, from https://www.cfpc.ca/RecognizedTraining/

The Organisation of Economic Development. (2018). Health at a Glance 2017 – OECD Indicators. Retrieved from Paris:

http://www.oecd.org/about/publishing/Corrigendum_Health_at_a_Glance_2017.pdf

Van Horne, R. (2018). The clock is ticking: International medical graduates struggle to find residency programs to practise in Nova Scotia. Retrieved June 29, 2020, from http://www.isans.ca/the-clock-is-ticking-international-medical-graduates-struggle-to-find-residency-programs-to-practise-in-nova-scotia/