



Medical Physicist Certification in Canada

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CCPM History

- Founded in 1979
- Membership: certification of competence
- Fellowship: excellence and leadership
- Recertification process was added in 2001
- Oral exam for membership started in 2004
- Currently 369 medical physicists certified by CCPM, 38% are Fellows



CCPM Mandate

As summarized from the CCPM Bylaws:

- Identify competent persons who are responsible for applications of physics in medicine
- Identify individuals demonstrating excellence in the practice of medical physics
- Promote knowledge and disseminate information related to medical physics.



Division of responsibilities COMP/CCPM

Clarification of Mandates:

- CCPM: run an excellent certification process
- COMP: serve its members through a broad range of activities appropriate to a professional association



Certification in Canada

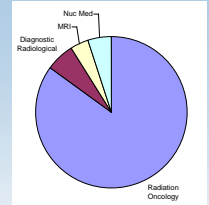
- Medical physics is not a regulated profession in any province (yet), so certification is not required by law (no licensure or registration)
- Most employers require certification as a condition of employment, for salary progression, or provide a bonus or salary increment
- Certification is increasingly seen as essential -- marks appropriate qualification of staff for institutional or program accreditation



Overview of CCPM Certification Process

• 4 sub-specialties:

- Radiation Oncology (86%)
- Nuclear Medicine
- Diagnostic Radiological
- MRI

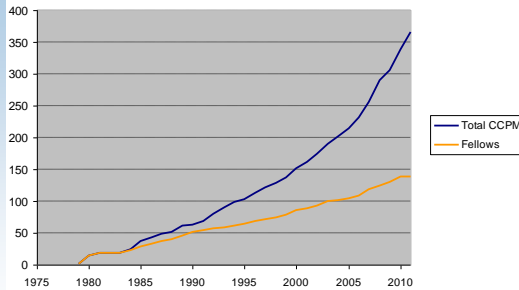


• Two levels of certification:

- Membership: Certification of competence (228)
Credential review, written and oral exams
- Fellowship: Demonstrated excellence (141)
Credential review and oral exam



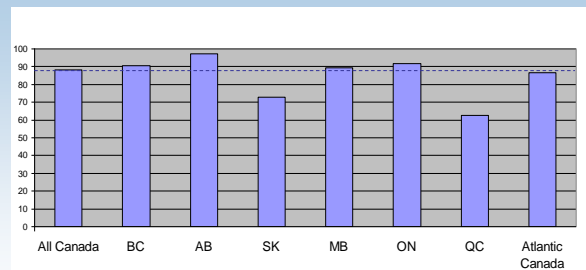
Cumulative Growth of CCPM Membership



2002: Recertification started
2004: Oral exam added



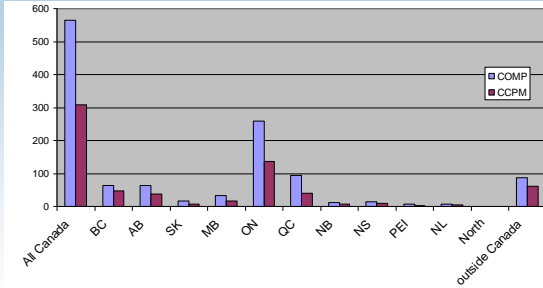
Percentage of clinical COMP members who are certified, by province



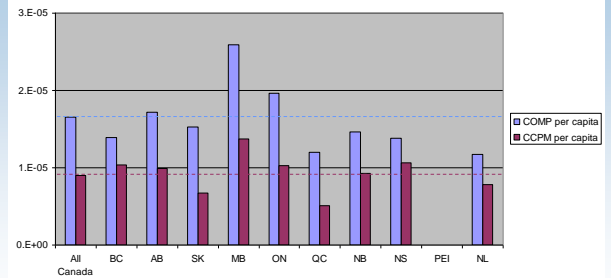
Certification includes MCCPM, FCCPM, ABR, ABMP, and other. Denominator includes all COMP members deemed to be in a clinical position and potentially eligible for certification.



Number of COMP and CCPM members by province

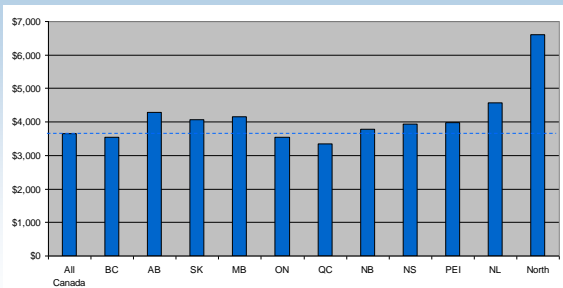


COMP and CCPM membership per capita of population



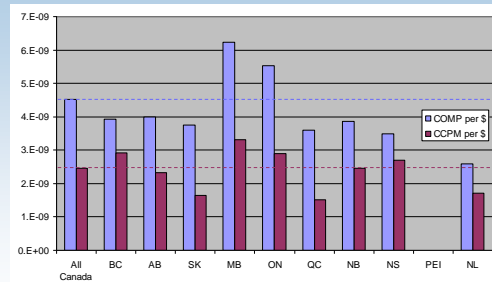
Population data Statscan 2010

Annual health care spending per capita



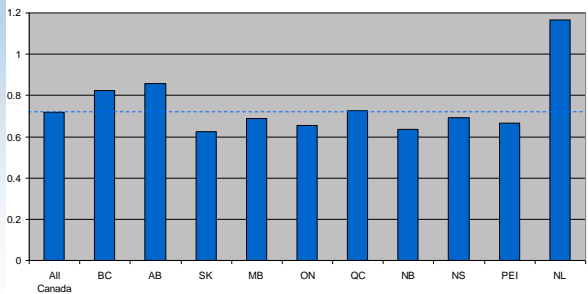
Per capita provincial government health care spending, Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), 2010

COMP and CCPM membership by provincial health care spending



Per capita provincial government health care spending, Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), 2010

Ratio of AAPM membership to COMP membership by province



A Tale of Two Provinces

Ontario

Quebec

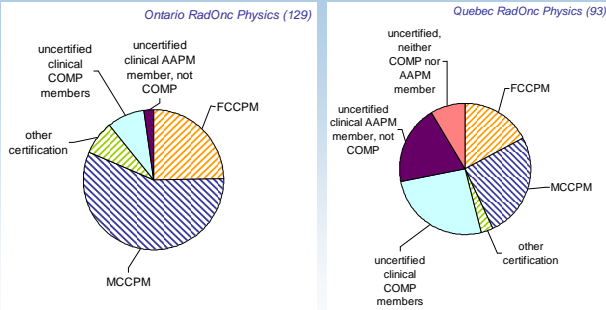
- Population: 13.2 M
- Radiation oncology medical physicists: 126
- 9.5 radonc physicists per million

- Population: 7.9 M
- Radiation oncology medical physicists: 93
- 11.8 radonc physicists per million



Ontario

Quebec



11% uncertified
Salary incentive for certification

54% uncertified
No salary incentive for certification

Conclusions

- Across Canada, medical physicist certification is strong and well established
- Rates of certification are lower in some provinces (notably SK and QC)
- Salary structure is a strong incentive for certification
- Certification in imaging sub-specialties is an issue