

ADVOCACY UPDATE



CAS Provides Input into Health Canada's Critical and Vulnerable Drug List Consultation

CAS President, Dr Giuseppe Fuda, and CAS Quality and Patient Safety Committee Co-Chair, Dr Conor Mc Donnell, provided joint input into Health Canada's consultation on the Critical and Vulnerable Drug List in February. In their submission, they highlighted several critical drugs used in anesthesia and critical care, that were absent from the list, and the need to deliver safe and consistent anesthesia care, which is continuously challenged by drug and equipment shortages.

To read the full submission [CLICK HERE](#)

CIHI Anesthesiologists HHR Forecasting Project

As a result of CAS' meeting with Health Workforce Canada last July, Dr Fuda, and CAS CEO, Vanessa Foran, met with Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and KPMG who are working together to forecast supply and demand data for anesthesia services in Canada. CAS provided input into their modeling tool to better align patients' needs and available HCP providers. This included outlining current workforce challenges in anesthesiology, workload issues affecting

anesthesiologists, reviewing the methodology for both supply and demand projections, and identifying anesthesiologist-specific nuances to be incorporated into the model. It was an excellent discussion in which CAS provided insight into the profession, current HHR issues, and provincial supply and demand models recently used in anesthesia. The conversation also highlighted the importance of anesthesia assistants, the ACT Model, and the role of family practice anesthetists in rural settings within specific provinces. CAS will share the results of this project with members once it's available.

CAS In the News

On February 3rd, Dr Fuda was interviewed on **CTV's Your Morning**. During the segment he unpacked anesthesiologists' vital role in patient safety, common misconceptions about the profession, and the root causes behind ongoing HHR shortages in Canada. He also discussed safe, practical solutions to the shortage endorsed by CAS, such as increasing anesthesia assistants (AA) positions, accepting more anesthesiology residents from abroad, and simplifying cross-provincial practice for anesthesiologists.

What's Next

Moving forward, CAS, together with British Columbia Anesthesiologists Society (BCAS), has made a joint request to meet with new Health Minister in BC. We also plan to meet with New Brunswick's new Health Minister shortly, connect with policy makers in Ontario following the recent February election, and will continue to keep members informed about these initiatives in the coming months.

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