



## What family physicians find rewarding

The 2004 National Physician Survey (NPS) gave FPs the opportunity to express which of their professional activities they found particularly rewarding.

- “Doing well-baby and [obstetric] care and helping young families stay healthy and self-reliant. Doing health education of young adults [and] teens.”
- “My obstetrical practice. Patients who say thanks and write beautiful letters of appreciation... Preventive and patient education aspects. Keeping patients out of hospital and truly doing primary and secondary prevention.”
- “The same as the first day I started practice—the grateful patient.”
- “Developing a therapeutic relationship with my patients; treating several generations within a family and following patients over many years; counseling patients.”
- “Having the implicit trust of my patients to direct their [preventive] care and treat their diseases. The privilege of having families count on me as one of their own and especially to share the growing up of their children.”
- “Obstetrics, palliative care, inpatient care... direct patient care is rewarding.”
- “The patient encounter itself; the immediacy of being able to help patients; learning from colleagues/specialists/CME; being involved in health education and promotion; the variety and problem-solving of medicine as a career.”
- “Being able to help people and counsel them in making good decisions regarding their health. Allowing the physicians I replace to spend time with their families and to have time to recreate. Having a job [that] is varied, stimulating, and secure.”
- “Reaction[s] of my patients when we have good outcomes.”
- “Relationships with my patients; gratitude of my patients for my involvement in their care; challenge and excitement of medicine even after 39 years of practice.”
- “Combining academic/research with the grounding of [practising] medicine—I’ll never give up patient care, as this is what drives [and] motivates the rest (teaching, writing, research).”
- “Diagnostic puzzles; communicating with patients; being with other physicians.”
- “Flexible work scheduling; pleasant work environments, both hospital and clinic; fabulous family doc and hospitalist colleagues; generally great specialist consultants.”
- “Chance to grow professionally and personally.”
- “Opportunity to practise good family medicine... and to maintain clinical skills in a solo rural practice.”
- “Patient care—all aspects. Despite the stresses, I still love rural/small-town practice and still consider it the gold standard.”
- “Patient care, obstetrics, administrative successes, grateful and accomplished residents/trainees. Successful research projects. Recognition by peers and family.”
- “Patient satisfaction, working with colleagues and interdisciplinary teams, teaching medicine as a profession for the intellectual and emotional challenges and stimulation.”
- “Teaching medical students [and] residents. Pride in developing excellent programs for teaching CME. Meeting other like-minded physicians in supportive networks.”
- “The satisfaction of loving what I do and the communication with my patients. The research and teaching. The activities within the community—volunteer[ing].”
- “Participation in new research projects.”
- “When I have a balance of work in different settings—office, ER, OR.”
- “Emergency medicine represents a classic model of general practice that offers constant exposure to interesting and unusual cases with a wide range of learning opportunities.”
- “Working in a rural ER, I have found that one doc and a couple of nurses really can save a life.”



The NPS is a collaborative project of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Canadian Medical Association, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Additional NPS results are available from [www.national-physiciansurvey.ca](http://www.national-physiciansurvey.ca). If you would like the opportunity to develop and write a future Fast Fact using the NPS results, please contact **Sarah Scott**, National Physician Survey and Janus Project Coordinator, at 800 387-6197, extension 289, or [sks@cfpc.ca](mailto:sks@cfpc.ca). 