

Mailing List Data Collection

The 2007 NPS was carried out as a self-reported survey of all physicians licensed to practice in Canada, and was completed either on paper or electronically. The mail and email contact lists were generated from the NPS Masterfile. The NPS Masterfile was populated with information from the CMA Membership System, the CFPC membership database, and the RCPSC membership database. The CMA Membership System was used as the template, as it included all physicians in Canada holding a medical license, and is compiled and updated on a daily basis with information received from provincial licensing bodies, associations, CFPC and RCPSC membership listings, and individual physicians. The information provided by CFPC and RCPSC added additional information (e.g. email addresses, more recently updated mailing addresses) to the content already supplied by the CMA Membership System.

Once fully populated, an NPS survey ID, not related to any existing member ID in any of the membership databases, was assigned to each record in the NPS Masterfile. These identification numbers were used to ensure that physician responses would remain confidential, to enable subsequent mailings/emailings of the questionnaire to be sent only to physicians who had not yet replied, and to provide the opportunity to apply the same numbers to future NPS surveys for longitudinal analyses, if permission was granted by the individuals.