	Primary	Subspecialty	Area of Focused Competence
Scope of practice	An area of medicine with a broad-based body of knowledge	Builds upon essential competencies and knowledge of a primary discipline, usually in greater depth; is a more focused than the advanced scope of a parent specialty	Typically has, but does not require a core specialty as the basis of the discipline
	Relevant in both community and tertiary settings	Is not always relevant in both community and tertiary settings	Is not always relevant in both community and tertiary settings
	Typically follows a patient through a care episode (e.g. beyond just a technical procedure)	Typically follows a patient through a care episode (e.g. beyond just a technical procedure)	Typically provides highly specific expertise/ components of care/ procedure/ consultation in care episode (clinical disciplines)
	Foundation for additional competencies	Prepares trainees for entry to a new scope practice	Typically does not prepare trainees for practice, rather enhances a practice
Practice Patterns	Practiced in multiple settings to serve large populations	Focused practice to serve specific populations	Highly focused; enhancement to existing practice
	Basis for entry to independent practice	Typically the majority of practitioners practice in the discipline, all of the time	Typically the majority of practitioners retain their practice in another discipline
		Typically the discipline replaces previous practice	Typically the discipline does not entirely replace previous practice
Educational Design	Breath of distinct medical knowledge and skills	Specified distinct medical knowledge and skills	Specified distinct medical knowledge and skills
	Broad constellation of competencies	Advanced constellation of competencies that build upon broad competencies of parent specialty	Highly advanced constellation of competencies that may or may not build upon a parent discipline
	Provides fundamentals of a field of medicine and acts as a foundation for additional competencies	Unique and specialized body of knowledge and competencies that build upon training and experience of a parent specialty	
	Highly structured immersed residency training required to achieve competence	Highly structured immersed residency training required to achieve competence	Competency may be achieved in a variety of ways including part-time practice-based, immersed training program or combination
	Typically requires 4 to 5 years to be acquired; set timeframe [1]	Typically requires 24 months to be acquired; set timeframe [1]	Typically training is competency-based, of variable length; flexible timeframe [2]
Infrastructure	A larger number and geographic spread of physicians possessing competencies associated with this specialty	A smaller and geographic spread of physicians possessing competencies associated with this subspecialty	May have a very small community of experts who work in distinct regions in Canada [3]
	Typically practiced across all or most jurisdictions in Canada	Typically practiced across all or most jurisdictions in Canada	
	Typically 4 or more programs in Canada, and offered more widely than subspecialties	Typically 2 or more programs in Canada	May have fewer than 2 programs
	A program director oversees the residency program	A program director oversees the residency program	A diploma director oversees the diploma program

[1] For example Nephrology
[2] For example Transfusion Medicine
[3] For example Urology vs. Pediatric Urology