

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE PRESENTATION

MAMSS ANNUAL EDUCATION
CONFERENCE

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BOARD STAFF

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AGENDA

1. Board of Medicine – General Background
2. Limited License Profiles
3. Licensing Pathway for Internationally Trained Physicians
4. ResCas
5. Questions and Answers



BOARD OF MEDICINE
– GENERAL
BACKGROUND

THE BOARD

The Board was created in 1894.

The Board is responsible for licensing, regulation and discipline of Massachusetts physicians and has jurisdiction over Massachusetts acupuncturists through its Committee on Acupuncture.

The Board currently licenses more than 49,000 physicians and nearly 1,200 acupuncturists.



MISSION OF THE BOARD

The mission of the Board is to ensure that only qualified and competent physicians of good moral character are licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and that those physicians and health care institutions in which they practice provide to their patients a high standard of care and support an environment that maximizes the high quality of health care in Massachusetts.



STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

The Board consists of seven members (two public members and five physician members) appointed by the governor to three-year terms.

A member may serve only two full consecutive terms.

Members sometimes serve beyond the end of their term before a replacement is appointed.

Members may serve on one or more of the Board's committees.

Board members are volunteers.



COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

- Complaint Committee: Reviews and makes recommendations on evidence gathered by the Enforcement Division.
- Licensing Committee: Reviews license applications and makes recommendations to the Board in situations where issues are raised regarding a physicians' ability to meet the Board's statutory and/or regulatory requirements for licensure.
- Quality and Patient Safety Committee: Works with health care facilities to improve patient safety processes and strengthens medical quality assurance programs.
- Committee on Acupuncture: Works with the Board to regulate practice of acupuncture.



THE LICENSING DIVISION

The Licensing Division's work is essential to ensuring that only qualified physicians are licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts.

The Licensing Division accomplishes this crucial function by collecting and verifying the credentials of physicians applying for licensure in Massachusetts.



LIMITED LICENSE PROFILES

LIMITED LICENSE PROFILES

- BORIM has expanding our licensee profiles page at FindMyDoctor.mass.gov to include Limited Licensee information. This is a part of the Board's transparency initiatives as well as offering an opportunity for self-service license verifications as we do for Full Physician and Acupuncture licenses.
- The Limited Licensee Profile will include the training facility and program, licensing status and dates (original issue, last renewal, and expiration), medical school, and any MA board discipline while the limited license is or was active



LIMITED LICENSE PROFILES

- Additional features of the Limited Licensee Profiles include:
 - Self-Service Verification – viewers on the profile page can click "Generate Verification of Licensure" to produce a uniquely identified PDF letter of verification. This eliminates the mail-in process with fee for most cases.
 - Associated Records - when on a licensee's profile, any related profiles will have a link to that profile, e.g., when on a Full profile, if the physician had a Limited license or an Acupuncture license, the license type, number, and a link to the profile will be displayed.



LIMITED LICENSE PROFILES

- Additional features of the Limited Licensee Profiles include:
 - Search across all license types - a choice of "All" is available so that the user does not need to select the license type.
 - Licensees with a provisionally-approved application WILL be listed in Profiles and indicated in public status "Active". This allows for immediate verification of the existence of the license and its status.



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- On November 20th of 2024, Governor Healey signed the Economic Development Bill, Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024. This law amends [M.G.L. c. 112, § 9](#) to add an additional pathway to full physician licensure for physicians already licensed and practicing in another country. This law is intended to address physician shortages in primary care and psychiatry by requiring physicians licensed under this pathway to practice for at least 3 years in geographical areas identified as having a health care provider shortage.
- The law establishes a limited license to be issued to physicians who meet the preliminary qualifications set in the statute. Qualifications include having been licensed and practicing in another country for at least 1 year in primary care or psychiatry and entering into an agreement with a BORIM-approved participating healthcare facility.



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- The first step in this alternative pathway is the issuance of a **license to practice only** at a “participating healthcare facility, which we define as a federally-qualified health center, community health center, hospital or other healthcare facility approved by BORIM
- Under this new law each of the Participating healthcare facilities must establish assessment programs approved by the Board so as to develop, assess and evaluate the applicant's nonclinical skills and standards appropriate for medical practice within the Commonwealth. To that end The Board has adopted criteria that is included in ACCME guidance.



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- These physicians are required to practice for at least one year under this limited license, which is renewable for an additional one-year period. Only after successful completion of practice as a licensee at a participating healthcare facility is the physician eligible to move on to the second step in this alternative pathway (Board issuance of a **restricted license**).
- This restricted license allows the physician to practice independently for two years in a designated “physician shortage area” in primary care, psychiatry, or other specialty approved by The Board. The restricted license is renewable for one additional two-year period (if or as necessary).



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- The third and final step in this alternative pathway after successfully practicing for at least two years under a restricted license and proof of passing Step 3 of the USMLE is applying for a full, unrestricted license to practice medicine.
- To be eligible for this type of license, the physician needs an M.D. or equivalent degree from a legally chartered medical school outside the United States recognized by the WHO (World Health Organization). they will also need;
 - at least one year of the practice of medicine in another country
 - a valid ECFMG certificate
 - proof of having passed Step 1 and 2 of the USMLE
 - agreement with a participating health care facility to participate in assessment and to work full time after the limited license is issued



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- To that end, the Board in November of last year, the Board adopted **POLICY 2025-03 (CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATING HEALTHCARE FACILITY PROGRAMS TO ASSESS AND EVALUATE INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS)**; Revised February 26, 2026
- First, this Policy sets forth the criteria by which BORIM determines whether a healthcare facility qualifies as a “participating healthcare facility” under the statute.
- Second, the Policy sets forth options for approaches to assessment and evaluation that participating healthcare facilities must incorporate into their programs and agreements to obtain and maintain BORIM approval. In addition, this policy sets forth the process by which health care facilities may request BORIM approval.



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- **Qualifications for Participating Healthcare Facilities**
 - Be a federally-qualified health center, community health center, community behavioral health center, hospital, or a health center or clinic affiliated with a hospital licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) or operated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 - Offer a program for development, assessment and evaluation of internationally trained physicians that meets the assessment and evaluation program parameters set in part II of this policy, and



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- **Qualifications for Participating Healthcare Facilities**
 - Provide medical care in a physician shortage area in a setting in which the healthcare facility;
 - (a) conducts the assessment and evaluation program and;
 - (b) employs the limited licensees who participate in the program to provide medical care on a full-time basis, is located in a geographical region within Massachusetts that is identified either as a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA) by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as of the effective date of this policy, or a Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/Ps) by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as of the effective date of this policy



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

■ Assessment and Evaluation Program Criteria

- Entry into the program must be limited to participants who meet statutory criteria for limited license eligibility.
- Participation in the program must be documented in an Agreement between the healthcare facility and the participant
- The program must incorporate and implement one of the following frameworks for assessing, developing and evaluating the participant's non-clinical skills, as identified and described in the health care facility's request for BORIM approval as a participating health care facility



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

■ Assessment and Evaluation Program Criteria

- The program must incorporate and implement one of the following assessment tools or approaches, as identified and described in the health care facility's request for BORIM approval as a participating health care facility
- The program must conduct an initial assessment of each participant within one month of BORIM issuance of a limited license and a subsequent assessment of each participant in the ninth month after BORIM issuance of a limited license. The program must provide BORIM with the results of both assessments no later than 45 days before the 1-year expiration of the limited license



LICENSING PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

■ Process for seeking and renewing Approval

- Healthcare facilities may apply for BORIM approval as a “Participating Healthcare Facility” by submitting an International Pathway Participating Facility Approval Request Form with BORIM (Request Form).
- BORIM approval as a Participating Healthcare Facility under this policy shall expire at the end of 4 years from the date of approval, unless renewed
- BORIM may review a Participating Healthcare Facility’s approval status at any point during the 4 years
- 8 Part Addendum providing Program Framework Adapted from ACGME Core Competencies



Thank you



Questions?

