



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

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December 27, 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is in response to your letter requesting information on the requirements for licensure of physicians and other allied health professionals and how primary verification of credentials is conducted by the Board. The following is provided:

All Professions:

- Education - Form in the application must be completed by the school and sent directly from the school to the Board.
- Licensure examination - Scores must be sent directly from the examination agency to the board.
- Other state licensure - Applicant requests written verification be sent directly from all states where an applicant has ever held a license, registration, certification, or permit to practice.
- A query of the Federation of State Medical Boards is done by the Board on all initial licensure and reactivation applications for physicians and physician assistants.

Physicians and Surgeons:

- 2 yrs graduate training (US grads) - Form in application must be completed by the hospital(s) and sent directly from the hospital to the Board.
- 3 yrs graduate training (International grads) - Form in application must be completed by the hospital(s) and sent directly from the hospital to the Board.
- ECFMG certification (International grads) - Applicant requests verification be sent directly from ECFMG to the Board.

Federation of State Medical Boards, Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) - Verification of education/credentials through FCVS is accepted by the Board for physicians and physician assistants. The Federation of State Medical Boards submits FCVS profiles directly to the Board.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
P. O. BOX 2649
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
Licensure Verification & Application Information**

What licenses does the Board issue?

MD (Physician), CNM (Certified Nurse Midwife), PA-C (Physician Assistant), RT (Respiratory Therapist), AK (Acupuncturist), ATC (Athletic Trainer), POM (Practitioner of Oriental Medicine), PERF (Perfusionist), BH (Behavior Specialist), GC (Genetic Counselors), (PO) Prosthetist, (OH) Orthotist, (PD) Pedorthist (OF) Orthotic Fitter

What is the period of time a license is valid in Pennsylvania?

2 Years—All licenses expire on the same date

What is the biennial period?

January 1, ODD to December 31, EVEN

Does the Board provide a grace period to its licensed practitioners when their license expires?

No

Is Continuing Education required by the Board?

Yes

*Effective January 1, 2015, all licensees regulated by the Board must complete 2 hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting.

Additional Continuing Education is required for the following classes:

**MD – Physician and Surgeons
RCP – Respiratory Care Practitioners
ATC- Athletic Trainers
PERF- Perfusionists
CNM – Certified Nurse Midwife w/Prescriptive Authority
GC – Genetic Counselors
PO- Prosthetist
OH-Orthotist
PD-Pedorthist
OF-Orthotic Fitter**

Specific requirements per license class are posted on the Board's website at www.dos.pa.gov/med

Can a license be renewed/reactivated prior to completion of continuing education?

No

Does the Board have a web site where license information can be verified?

www.pals.pa.gov/verify

How often is the information on your web site updated?

Daily

Is there a fee to obtain written verification of a license to another licensing board with issue date, expiration date, current status and possible disciplinary information and what is the fee?

Yes

**Certification/Verification of Licensure - \$15
Requests must be submitted online at www.pals.pa.gov.**

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| Is the information on the web site the same information that would be provided in a verification of licensure? | Yes |
| Are disciplinary actions available on the Board's web site? | Yes |
| Is the information provided on the Board's web site considered electronically secure as well as a primary source for license verification? | Yes |
| Is the Board's web site considered a secure site? | Yes |
| How often is information regarding verification of licensure on the Board's web site updated? | 24-48 hours |
| Is the Board's current Newsletter as well as previous versions available on the web site? | Yes |
| If the applicant has a license in another state, do you verify current status (primary source verification directly from the licensing board to the PA Board) prior to issuing a license? | Yes |
| Does the Board verify all education/graduation (primary source verification directly from the school to the Board for both American and International Medical Graduates-physicians) prior to issuing a license? | Yes American – Verification of Medical Education Form International Medical Graduates – Diploma, Transcripts & Verification of Medical Education Form |
| Does the Board verify ECFMG certification, if necessary, (primary source verification directly from ECFMG to the Board) prior to issuing a license? | Yes |
| Does the Board accept the Federation of State Medical Boards FCVS credentials verification service? | Yes for physicians and physician assistants However, Additional Documents Are Required |
| Does the Board conduct a query of the Federation of State Medical Boards on all initial applications and reactivations? | Yes |
| Does the Board verify examination scores (primary source verification directly from the examination agency to the Board) prior to issuing a license? | Yes |
| Does the Board verify all post-graduation training (primary source verification directly from the training facility to the Board for both American and International Medical Graduates) prior to issuing a license? | Yes American – 2 years (PGY1 & PGY2) International Medical Graduates – 3 years (PGY1, PGY2 & PGY3) |
| Can we obtain a list of all licensed practitioners on a CD/Disk/Emailed? Is there a fee? | Yes – Contact RA-listrequest@pa.gov |
| Is disciplinary information available? | Yes – This information is available on the Board's website – www.dos.pa.gov For copies of an action(s), contact the Prothonotary's Office at 717-772-2686 |

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