



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

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December 30, 2020

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 professions 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:

- Completion of AOA Approved Internship – A form in the application must be completed by the hospital(s) and sent directly from the hospital 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 FCVS must be sent directly from the Federation of State Medical Boards to the Board.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine



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

What licenses does the Board issue?

**OS(Physician), PA-C(Physician Assistant), RT(Respiratory Therapist),
AK(Acupuncturist), ATC(Athletic Trainer), PERF(Perfusionist), and GC (Genetic Counselors)**

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?

**Physicians, Physician Assistants, and Acupuncturists - November 1, EVEN to October 31, EVEN
All other license classes – 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

Initial Licensure:

All licensees regulated by the Board must complete 3 hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting.

All prescribers or dispensers applying for licensure/approval must complete at least 4 hours of Board-approved education consisting of 2 hours in pain management or the identification of addiction and 2 hours in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. Applicants must document, within one year from issuance of the licensure/approval, that they completed this education either as part of an initial education program, a stand-alone course from a Board-approved course provider, or a continuing education course from an approved continuing education provider.

Renewal:

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 license classes:

**OS – Physician and Surgeons
RT – Respiratory Therapists
ATC– Athletic Trainers
PERF – Perfusionists
GC – Genetic Counselors**

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

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?

Yes

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
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) 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?	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 an AOA approved internship (primary source verification directly from the training facility to the Board) prior to issuing a license?	Yes
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/ost For copies of an action(s), contact the Prothonotary's Office at 717-772-2686