



PRESS RELEASE—Contact DSPS Newsroom at dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov

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DSPS Communications
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Wisconsin Offering Unique Option to Bolster Healthcare Workforce

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) is offering a new path to licensure for internationally trained physicians.

Starting October 1, Wisconsin began offering a new provisional physician license option to graduates trained outside the United States.

“We’re taking an all of the above approach to addressing workforce challenges in Wisconsin,” said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. “The Evers Administration is committed to exploring new pathways that help meet the needs of Wisconsin patients, while also maintaining the regulatory guardrails that keep them safe.”

Wisconsin was among the first states to offer this alternative pathway to a physician license when the legislature passed and Governor Tony Evers signed 2023 Wisconsin Act 214.

DSPS and the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) have spent months developing rules that define certain requirements and provide greater clarity for individuals interested in pursuing this provisional license. This new pathway offers flexibility to individuals who might not otherwise meet the standards for a full, unrestricted medical license. However, there are other requirements for a provisional license to ensure patient safety, including the following:

- An offer of full-time employment as a physician in Wisconsin, in an approved setting
- A medical doctorate or a substantially similar degree by an international medical program
- Completion of a residency program or a postgraduate medical training program outside the U.S. that is substantially similar to ACGME/AOA Accredited Post-Graduate Training/residency programs
- At least five years practicing as a fully licensed physician in their country of practice after completing a residency program or a postgraduate medical training program

- Passing all steps of the United States Medical Licensing Examination

You can find a full list of requirements here: [Wisconsin Legislature: Chapter Med 27](#)

“We’re committed to creating opportunities for internationally trained physicians to pursue licensure in Wisconsin in a way that meets the goal of ensuring quality care,” said MEB Chairman Dr. Gregory Schmeling.

“The Wisconsin Medical Society applauds this important step forward in addressing our state’s physician workforce,” said Wisconsin Medical Society Board of Directors Chair Jerry Halverson, MD. “Studies show that top-quality care comes from physician-led health care teams, so increasing the number of highly-trained and educated physicians in Wisconsin will only enhance access to care that will benefit our patients.”

Physicians who apply for and receive this provisional license will only practice medicine and surgery under the supervision of licensed physicians in the approved employment setting. After three years of successful compliance with the provisional license requirements, the credential holder can apply to convert the provisional license into a full license to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin.

About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.