



# MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe medical care.

## Licensing Program

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Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Department of Consumer Affairs

June 8, 2018

To: Program Directors  
California Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 798: Changes to Postgraduate Training Requirements

Dear Program Directors,

This letter is to advise you of the forthcoming changes regarding postgraduate training requirements for your current residents and/or prospective residents, who will apply for a Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate with the Medical Board of California (Board) in 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the California Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) programs have sufficient time to prepare for the new postgraduate training/licensing requirements for Physician's and Surgeon's in California.

The changes related to the postgraduate training requirements for residents in an ACGME-approved program are being initiated as a result of the Board's sunset bill, Senate Bill (SB) 798, (Hill, Chapter 775), which became effective on January 1, 2018. The bill extended the Board's authority until January 1, 2022, and also made significant revisions related to the requirements for a Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate beginning January 1, 2020.

The following changes will occur under SB 798, effective January 1, 2020:

- The minimum requirements for postgraduate training in California will require successful completion of thirty-six (36) months of a Board-approved program for all applicants, regardless of whether the medical school attended was domestic or international.

Note: SB 798 will change the current minimum requirements of postgraduate training for U.S./Canadian graduates requiring twelve (12) months and international medical school graduates requiring twenty-four (24) months to thirty-six months (36) of a Board-approved program.

- A Postgraduate Training License (PTL) will be issued to all residents who are participating in a California ACGME program. The issuance of a PTL will allow residents to train without violating the law.

A trainee must obtain a PTL within 180 days after enrollment in a Board-approved postgraduate program and would be valid until 90 days after the trainee has completed the required thirty-six (36) months of training.

In preparing for these new changes within your institution, it is strongly recommended that a trainee applying for a PTL immediately submit an application and all supporting documents required by the Board, as soon as he or she has confirmation of acceptance into a Board-approved program to avoid any interruptions with the trainee's obligations.

After successful completion of thirty-six (36) months of training, the trainee will apply for a full and unrestricted license with the Board within 90 days to continue practicing medicine in California. Please note, the Board will not require the renewal of a PTL. However, the program must notify the Board if the trainee transfers to another Board-approved program, resigns, or is terminated. The Board must also be notified if the trainee's program is extended for any reason(s), if the trainee takes a leave of absence and/or the trainee receives no credit for any rotation.

In addition, SB made changes to the process for recognizing international medical schools. Beginning January 1, 2020, the Board will recognize an international medical school as meeting the educational requirements for a PTL/licensure, if the school is listed on the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education (FAIMER) and Research World Directory of Medical Schools joint directory or the World Directory of Medical Schools.

To ensure that the California ACGME programs are prepared for the new postgraduate training/licensing requirements that will take effect January 1, 2020, the Board is working diligently on an implementation plan that will include revisions to the Physician's and Surgeon's Application, and other forms, policies and procedures, the Board's BreEZe online system and website, and most importantly, communications and outreach to trainees and the California ACGME programs.

These changes are intended to further support the Board's mission of consumer protection. The Board looks forward to working with you to ensure a smooth transition in the following months/years. The Board will keep you informed of the progress of the transition plan as it becomes available. The Board will be hosting workshops, providing podcasts, and preparing other materials to assist in this transition.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact me at telephone number (916) 263-2348, or via e-mail at [April.Alameda@mbc.ca.gov](mailto:April.Alameda@mbc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

April Alameda  
Chief of Licensing  
Enclosures:

**Medical Board of California (Board)**  
**SB 798 Postgraduate Training Changes Overview**  
**Effective January 1, 2020**

- The minimum requirements for a Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate in California will require thirty-six (36) months of Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), or College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) accredited postgraduate training for all applicants regardless of whether the medical school attended was domestic or international.
- A Postgraduate Training Authorization Letter will no longer be required for international medical graduates.
- A Postgraduate Training License (PTL) is required for all residents who are participating in a California ACGME program who have less than thirty-six (36) months of postgraduate training.
- A trainee must obtain a PTL within 180 days after enrollment in a Board-approved postgraduate program and will be valid until 90 days after the trainee has successfully completed the required thirty-six months (36) of training. The additional 90 days allows an applicant time to obtain a full and unrestricted license.
- Applicants are not required to wait until they have begun their residency training to apply for a PTL, rather they may submit an application and all supporting documents required by the Board as soon as they have confirmation of acceptance into a Board-approved program.
- The holder of a PTL may engage in the practice of medicine only in connection with his or her duties as an intern or resident in a Board-approved postgraduate program, including its affiliated sites, or under those conditions as approved in writing and maintained in the file, by the director of his or her program. Accordingly, a holder of a PTL may moonlight with written authorization from the program director.
- Applicants will be issued a license, which will identify that the intern/resident holds a PTL and the information of the resident will be available on the Board's website.
- A renewal of a PTL will not be required. However, the training programs will be required to notify the Board about status changes such as a resignation, termination, or leave of absence within 30 days.
- An applicant must successfully complete a minimum of 36 months of board-approved postgraduate training, with at least 24 consecutive months in the same program, to be eligible for a California Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.



# MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

## Postgraduate Training License

Medical School Graduate matches to an ACGME accredited program in California

**The Postgraduate Training License must be obtained within 180 days from the start date of training.**

A completed Postgraduate Training License (PTL) Application, application fee, and fingerprint cards must be submitted to the Board by the applicant.

The applicant must request the following documents to be mailed directly to the Board:

- Verification of passing examination scores from the appropriate organization such as the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) is not required.
- Completed Certificate of Medical Education, Transcript and Diploma from the medical school.
- Verification for all prior accredited postgraduate training from the program(s).
- Enrollment Verification form from the California Program where the applicant matched.

The Board receives and processes all documents submitted by the applicant, FSMB or other, medical school, and the program.

### **Application is approved and a PTL is issued.**

The PTL will be displayed on the Board's website showing the expiration date with the name and address of the facility where training is being completed.

If the training dates are extended or there is a change of status, (i.e. termination, resignation, leave of absence, probation, etc.), the program is responsible for completing the Change of Status Notification form within 30 days and submitting it to the Board directly.

The resident must apply and obtain the Physician's and Surgeon's license immediately after successfully completing 36 months of approved training. Clinical activities must cease in California, if the Physician's and Surgeon's license is not obtained within 90 days after the resident successfully completes 36 months of training.

For more information, please contact April Alameda, Chief of Licensing, at (916) 263-2348.

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# MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

## Transition to an Unlimited Physician's and Surgeon's License

Resident successfully completes 36 months of ACGME/RCPSC accredited training

**If the unlimited license is not obtained within 90 days of 36 month of accredited training, all clinical activities in California must cease.**

The resident must submit a completed transition application to the Board once he or she successfully completes 36 months of Board-approved training.

The resident must request the following documents be mailed directly to the Board:

- United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Transcript of Scores verifying passing scores for Steps 3 from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), if necessary.
- Certificate of Completion of ACGME/RCPSC Postgraduate Training for each program completed after the last day of the 36<sup>th</sup> month.

The Board receives and processes all documents submitted by the applicant, FSMB if necessary, and the program(s).

**Application is approved and a Physician's and Surgeon's certificate is issued using the same license number.**

The physician's and surgeon's license will be displayed on the Board's public website at [www.mbc.ca.gov](http://www.mbc.ca.gov).

For more information, please contact April Alameda, Chief of Licensing, at (916) 263-2348.