



Fields of Opportunities

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MARK BOWDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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‘Expedited’ process available for medical license applicants

DES MOINES, IA – Physicians applying for permanent licensure in Iowa will find the process easier if they are in good standing in their profession and have been in practice for the past five years.

A new administrative rule for the Iowa Board of Medicine allows certain applications to follow an “expedited endorsement” track, which means the Board can issue a license based on the acceptance of an applicant’s core educational and post-graduate training credentials that have been verified by another state’s licensing board. The amendments to 653 IAC Chapter 9 were adopted February 5 and became effective April 14.

Under the usual licensure process, applicants must submit, or arrange for submission, considerable documentation on medical school education, licensure examination and post-graduate training.

Applicants considered for expedited endorsement must meet the following requirements:

- Hold at least one permanent unrestricted license in another state or Canada
- Have no formal disciplinary actions, or active or pending investigations regarding competence or conduct
- Hold certification by an American Board of Medical Specialties or an American Osteopathic Association board
- Have been in practice for the past five years

Amy Van Maanen, the Board’s director of licensure administration, said expedited endorsement will make it easier to apply for licensure in Iowa for qualified applicants. She said the new process does not reduce the agency’s steps in reviewing an application, but it should reduce the time it takes to process the application.

The Board administers 10,500 physician licenses and receives more than 600 applicants per year for permanent licensure. Van Maanen said an audit of applications over the past eight months showed that 40 percent would qualify for the expedited endorsement.