



Fields of Opportunities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Board to pursue rule changes to expedite physician licensing

DES MOINES, IA -- The Iowa Board of Medicine is looking at a faster process for issuing a medical license to physicians who have established professional practices and do not have histories of professional disciplines or investigations.

At its July 9 meeting, the Board authorized staff to develop administrative rules that could reduce the amount of paperwork an applicant would have to submit for an Iowa medical license. This change could become effective when the Board's new licensure database is implemented in the spring of 2010.

The Iowa Board is one of several state boards in a nationwide project looking to streamline medical licensing by allowing endorsement – a process which relies on the verification of routine information by another state's licensing authority.

Iowa applicants are required to provide significant documentation about their medical education and training and to undergo the same scrutiny of their professional history that they faced when they were licensed by another state.

Under possible rule changes, the Board could relax requirements on primary source verification of education, training and medical license testing if a physician graduated from an approved medical school, holds current certification from a medical specialty board, holds an unrestricted medical license in every state they are licensed, does not have a professional disciplinary history, and has practiced continuously for five years prior to submitting an application for licensure in Iowa.

The Board is expected to begin the rule-making process for expedited licensure by endorsement at its Sept. 2-3 meeting in Des Moines.