RESIDENT LICENSURE POLICY

PURPOSE:
To comply with District of Columbia law for licensure of physician trainees.

REQUIREMENTS:
Residents have the responsibility for familiarizing themselves with the physician licensure requirements of D.C. law and regulations, and for obtaining requisite licenses. Generally, the D.C. Board of Medicine requires residents in ACGME-accredited programs to obtain licensure as follows:

- Residents who are graduates of US and Canadian medical schools and have not completed a post-graduate clinical training program are required to obtain a D.C. license five (5) years after graduation, unless they are trainees in a seven (7) year surgery residency program.
- Residents who are international medical graduates (IMG) and have not completed a post-graduate clinical training program are required to obtain a D.C. license after five (5) years of graduate medical education in the United States, prior to beginning the sixth year of training, unless they are trainees in a seven (7) year surgery residency program.
- Residents who have completed a post-graduate clinical training program are required to be licensed.

Exceptions to the above rules:
- If a physician has at any time been licensed in D.C. or any other jurisdiction in the US, that physician must have a D.C. medical license in order to participate in a residency program unless the physician is an international medical graduate who became licensed in a jurisdiction that required less than three (3) years of U.S. postgraduate training or has not yet completed the three (3) years of U.S. postgraduate training required for an IMG to become licensed in D.C.
- Residents who are in the final six (6) months of the training program are permitted to obtain a license in another jurisdiction and are exempt from the requirement to obtain a full D.C. medical license.

Residents who are not required to have a DC Medical license are required to apply for and obtain a Medical Training License (MTL). The MTL is valid for the current academic year and must be renewed every academic year during the renewal period, as specified by the D.C. Board of Medicine.

Timely proof of licensure must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Medical Education. Residents who do not obtain licensure in accordance with D.C. law may not provide patient care.
REIMBURSEMENT:
The Office of Graduate Medical Education will reimburse residents for the cost of the initial MTL and renewals and for the cost of the criminal background check if the resident submits proof of payment within 60 days of receiving the MTL.

The Office of Graduate Medical Education will typically reimburse residents who are required by law to be licensed for payment of their license fees and the annual non-regulatory professional license fee if the resident submits a copy of the license and proof of payment within 60 days of receiving the license. If, however, a resident must obtain D.C. licensure because he/she already has an unrestricted license to practice medicine in another state or because he/she obtains such a license during the first five years of participation in postgraduate training, the resident shall bear the cost of such licensure.

The Office of Graduate Medical Education will not pay for expenses incurred for substantiating documentation to accompany the licensure application; i.e., Board scores and transcripts, nor will it pay for fines assessed by the regulatory boards for failure to timely apply for and obtain licensure.

Residents who are not required by law to maintain licensure are permitted to apply for licensure in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; however, they will not receive reimbursement from the Office of Graduate Medical Education. Exceptions may be requested by Program Directors for individuals who may need licensure in order to comply with hospital or departmental requirements. Such requests will be evaluated by the Director of Graduate Medical Education and, if deemed appropriate, granted based on availability of funds.

Virginia and Maryland laws require residents rotating to affiliated institutions in these states to have training licenses. Applications for Virginia and Maryland training licenses must be completed by the resident and submitted to the appropriate state medical board by the Office of Graduate Medical Education. These licenses must be renewed every year. The cost of these licenses and renewals will be paid directly by the Office of Graduate Medical Education if applications are submitted at least two months prior to the rotation. Residents who submit applications for training licenses less than two months prior to the start of a rotation in Maryland or Virginia are required to include a personal check with the application ($100 for Maryland; $55 for Virginia). The GME Office will file a claim for reimbursement with University Accounting on behalf of the resident if the resident submits proof of payment to the GME Office.

Residents on approved elective rotations in jurisdictions requiring a license are responsible for obtaining the license and for all associated costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 21, 1992
REVISED: April 17, 2000
REVISED AND APPROVED BY GMEC: Feb. 24, 2003
REVISED AND APPROVED BY GMEC: March 28, 2004
REVISED AND APPROVED BY GMEC: Jan. 23, 2006
REVISED AND APPROVED BY GMEC: March 17, 2014