

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 2
(A-18)

Introduced by: International Medical Graduates Section

Subject: Foreign Trained IMGs Competency-Based Specialty Exam Without U.S. Residency

Referred to: Reference Committee _____
(_____, Chair)

1 Whereas, There is a predicted shortage of 40,800-104,900 physicians in the U.S. by
2 2025;¹ and
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4 Whereas, There are many qualified International Medical Graduates (IMGs) waiting for a
5 residency position;² and
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7 Whereas, U.S. medical schools and the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education
8 (ACGME) are moving towards competency-based criteria and not necessarily time-based
9 criteria for graduation;³ and
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11 Whereas, Many overseas residency programs are equally as rigorous as residency programs in
12 the U.S.; and
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14 Whereas, Many well trained and experienced IMGs could meet the competency-based criteria
15 required for graduation from the residency programs; and
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17 Whereas, There is precedent where several physicians who were trained abroad entered
18 medical practice in the U.S., or even served on U.S. medical school faculties, without being
19 required to undergo any additional residency training; therefore be it
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21 RESOLVED, That the American Medical Association work with other stakeholders including the
22 Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education, Association of American Medical
23 Colleges and the American Board of Medical Specialties, to allow IMGs who have completed
24 residency programs in their own countries, to take the specialties exam without being required
25 to complete additional residency training in the U.S. (Directive to Take Action)
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References:

¹American Association of Medical Colleges, "The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections from 2015-2030, February 28, 2017.

²National Residency Matching Program, <http://www.nrmp.org>

³ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education, <http://www.acgme.org>

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Competency Based Medical Education Across the Continuum of Education and Practice D-295.317

1. Our AMA Council on Medical Education will continue to study and identify challenges and opportunities and critical stakeholders in achieving a competency-based curriculum across the medical education continuum and other health professions that provides significant value to those participating in these curricula and their patients.
2. Our AMA Council on Medical Education will work to establish a framework of consistent vocabulary and definitions across the continuum of health sciences education that will facilitate competency-based curriculum, andragogy and assessment implementation.

Mechanisms to Measure Physician Competency H-275.936

Our AMA (1) reviews and proposes improvements for assuring continued physician competence, including but not limited to performance indicators, board certification and recertification, professional experience, continuing medical education, and teaching experience; and (2) opposes the development and/or use of "Medical Competency Examination" and establishment of oversight boards for current state medical boards as proposed in the fall 1998 Report on Professional Licensure of the Pew Health Professions Commission, as an additional measure of physician competency.