

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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January 2, 2014

**Ms. Rita Arceneaux**  
Confidential Executive Assistant

RE: Advisory Opinion-Licensing

At its most recent meeting the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") considered your general views that the Board reduce the amount of post-graduate medical training for international medical graduates (IMGs) from three to two years, as you claim is required by the Texas Medical Board, or to one year as is required for American and Canadian medical school graduates.

The Board has asked that I acknowledge your note of November 12, 2013, and advise you that the distinct licensure requirements applicable to IMGs derive primarily from the Board's long-standing conviction that professional medical licensure is properly conditioned, *inter alia*, on demonstration that the applicant has received a sound basic medical education and that no licensing examination can, in and of itself, substitute for the cognitive and clinical foundation provided by such an education. Board rules thus require generally that applicants hold a doctor of medicine or equivalent degree from a medical school or college approved by the Board. As respects American and Canadian medical schools, the Board has long been able to rely on the accreditation processes of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges (LCME/AAMC) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. There are, however, no equivalent accreditation bodies or procedures which provide the Board with a basis for confidence in the quality or competence of medical schools located outside of the United States or Canada. As a result, the Board, as do other states, requires that IMGs complete a specified period of residency training in an accredited American institution as a condition to qualification for full licensure and as a means of confirming the quality of the applicant's basic medical education. The distinctions which the Board's rules make, thus, derive from the lack of uniformity in the standards and accreditation of medical schools internationally.

Thus, while the Board is convinced that the requirements respecting IMGs are appropriate, it is currently contemplating whether or not, for reasons unrelated to medical school accreditation standards, post-graduate medical education licensure requirements

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for American and Canadian graduates should be increased. We anticipate further consideration and discussion of this issue in the upcoming months.

In any event, while we understand that this reply is not that for which you had hoped, we nevertheless trust it is responsive.

Very truly yours,

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By: 

Rita Arceneaux  
*Confidential Executive Assistant*