

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA and NORTHERN ISLANDS**



COMMONWEALTH REGISTER

**VOLUME 47
NUMBER 5
MAY 15, 2025**

**COMMONWEALTH REGISTER
VOLUME 47
NUMBER 05
MAY 15, 2025**

ADOPTION

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Public Notice of Certification and Adoption of Regulations Cannabis Commission	052051
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PROPOSED

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MORATORIUM

Public Notice of Lifting Moratorium on Marijuana Producer License Cannabis Commission	052124
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg. No. 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4808/09 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp



**PUBLIC NOTICE AND CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD FOR
LIMITED LICENSURE FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES**

**PRIOR PUBLICATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH REGISTER AS PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS**

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 4, PAGES 052031 – 052038 OF APRIL 15, 2025

ACTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED REGULATIONS: The Health Care Professions Licensing Board, HEREBY ADOPTS AS PERMANENT regulations the Proposed Regulations which were published in the Commonwealth Register at the above-referenced pages, pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act, 1 CMC § 9104(a). The Health Care Professions Licensing Board announced that it intended to adopt them as permanent, and now does so.

PRIOR PUBLICATION: The initial publication was as stated above. The Health Care Professions Licensing Board adopted the attached regulations as final as of the date of signing below.

MODIFICATIONS FROM PRIOR PUBLISHED PROPOSED REGULATIONS, IF ANY: One comment was received supporting the proposed amendment, and the board approved as is.

AUTHORITY: The Health Care Professions Licensing Board has statutory power to promulgate and effect regulations pursuant to 3 CMC §2206(b), as amended.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Pursuant to the APA, 1 CMC § 9105(b), these adopted amendments to the Regulations for **Limited Licensure for Foreign Medical Graduates** are effective 10 days after compliance with the APA, 1 CMC §§9102 and 9104(a) or (b), which in this instance, is 10 days after publication in the Commonwealth Register.

COMMENTS AND AGENCY CONCISE STATEMENT: Pursuant to the APA, 1 CMC § 9104(a)(2), the agency received one supporting comment on the proposed amendments to the regulations for **Limited Licensure for Foreign Medical Graduates**. Upon this adoption of the amendments, the agency will issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for accepting or rejecting any comments if requested to do so by an interested person within 30 days of publication.

ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVAL: The adopted regulations for **Limited Licensure for Foreign Medical Graduates** were approved for promulgation by the CNMI Attorney General in the above cited pages of the Commonwealth Register, pursuant to 1 CMC § 2153 (e) (to review and approve, as to form and legal sufficiency, all rules and regulations to be promulgated by any department, agency or instrumentality of the Commonwealth government, including public corporations, except as otherwise provided by law).

I DECLARE under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a true and correct copy, and that this declaration was executed on the 13th day of May, 2025, at Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Certified and ordered by:





Esther S. Fleming
Executive Director

05/13/25

Date

Filed and recorded by:



Esther San Nicolas
Commonwealth Register 

05.15.25

Date

§ 185-10-4206

~~§ 140-50.3-4206~~ Requirements for Licensing for Foreign or International Medical Graduates with US Training or US Licensure.

A foreign or international medical graduate applying to practice as a physician must meet the following requirements:

1. The applicant is a graduate of a foreign medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS) and must have graduated in a calendar year when the medical school was listed in the WDMS.
2. The applicant must have satisfactorily completed at least three (3) years of postgraduate training, internship, or residency in a training program accredited by ACGME, the Accreditation Committee of the Federation of the Medical Licensing Authority of Canada, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or another residency program approved by the Board, after earning a medical degree.
3. The applicant must be of good moral character and must not have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude or a crime related to their practice as a physician in any jurisdiction, U.S. or foreign.

§ 185-10-4207

~~§ 140-50.3-4207~~ Foreign and International Medical Graduates without U.S. Training or License.

An applicant to practice as a physician under this category must:

1. Be entitled or eligible to enter, work, and remain in the Commonwealth.
2. Be a graduate of a medical school listed in the WDMS and must have graduated in a calendar year when the medical school was recognized by the government agency in the country where the school is located.
3. Have satisfactorily completed a 3-year postgraduate training program (residency and fellowship, if applicable) after earning a medical degree in the field in which they are applying.
4. Have taken and passed the national specialty examination of their field of medicine (if applicable) in the country where they currently practice or provide evidence, approved by the Board, of postgraduate training and continuing medical education reflecting standards commensurate with U.S. and Canadian physicians.
5. Demonstrate a command of the English language by taking and passing the Occupational English Test (OET) for physicians, the TOEFL exam, or another language proficiency exam approved by the Board. Alternatively, fluency may be determined through a conversation with a board member.
6. Hold an unrestricted, active license to practice medicine in the country where they are currently practicing and must have held that license and been practicing independently for at least two (2) years preceding the date of application to practice in the CNMI.
7. Provide a Letter of Good Standing from the licensing and/or regulatory agency in the country where they are currently practicing medicine, satisfactory to the Board, confirming that no disciplinary action has been taken against their license by any medical profession licensing authority and that they have not been the subject of any adverse action such as suspension, revocation, probation, or denial of renewal. This Letter of Good Standing must be issued and dated within six (6) months preceding the date of application to practice in the CNMI.

b) The license shall be for a period of three (3) years and may be renewed or granted an extension with Board approval.

c) A U.S. Social Security number and a National Provider Identification (NPI) number must be provided upon request by the Board during the period that the license is valid.

d) Scope of Practice:

1. The foreign-licensed physician shall practice in accordance with their training and experience.
2. The foreign-licensed physician must have a supervisor to oversee clinical practice per CHCC bylaws or other clinic bylaws.
3. The foreign-licensed physician shall be employed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation or another established healthcare facility willing to comply with these regulations.

e) Supervising Physician: The supervising physician must comply with the bylaws of the place of employment.

C) Nothing in these regulations shall:

1. Prohibit the Board from disapproving any foreign medical school or postgraduate training program or from denying an application if, in the opinion of the Board, the professional instruction provided by the medical school or the postgraduate training program or the instruction received by the applicant is not equivalent to that required of U.S.-trained physicians.
2. Prohibit the Board from suspending, revoking, placing on probation, or conditioning the license on any grounds that by law or regulations would be grounds to suspend, revoke, place on probation, or condition the license to practice medicine in the CNMI, or for periods of time when the foreign-licensed physician is not under the supervision of a CNMI-licensed healthcare professional.
3. Prohibit the Board from revoking a previously issued license if the licensee has not entered the CNMI and begun work for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation within 6 months from the date of licensure.

D) If the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) is not fully satisfied with a foreign-licensed physician's application, they may request that the sponsoring institution arrange for the candidate to appear before the board for a face-to-face interview. If an in-person meeting is not feasible, the board may instead require a designated member to travel to the candidate's location for an interview. All associated costs will be the responsibility of the petitioning institution.