

CHAPTER 9  
PERMANENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICINE PHYSICIAN LICENSURE

[Prior to 5/30/01, see 653—Chapter 11]

**653—9.1(147,148) Definitions.**

“*ABMS*” means the American Board of Medical Specialties, which is an umbrella organization for at least 24 medical specialty boards in the United States that assists the specialty boards in developing and implementing educational and professional standards to evaluate and certify physician specialists in the United States. The board recognizes specialty board certification by ABMS.

“*ACGME*” means the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, an accreditation body that is responsible for accreditation of post-medical school training programs in medicine and surgery in the United States of America. The board approves resident training programs accredited by ACGME.

“*Administrative medicine*” means administration or management utilizing the medical and clinical knowledge, skill, and judgment of a licensed physician and capable of affecting the health and safety of the public or any person. A physician with an administrative medicine license may advise organizations, both public and private, on health care matters; authorize and deny financial payments for care; organize and direct research programs; review care provided for quality; and perform other similar duties that do not require direct patient care. “Administrative medicine” does not include the authority to practice clinical medicine; examine, care for or treat patients; prescribe medications, including controlled substances; or delegate medical acts or prescriptive authority to others.

“*Administrative medicine license*” means a license issued by the board pursuant to 653—9.20(147,148).

“*AMA*” means the American Medical Association, a professional organization of physicians and surgeons.

“*Any jurisdiction*” means any state, the District of Columbia or territory of the United States of America or any other nation.

“*Any United States jurisdiction*” means any state, the District of Columbia or territory of the United States of America.

“*AOA*” means the American Osteopathic Association, which is the representative organization for osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) in the United States. The board approves osteopathic medical education programs with AOA accreditation; the board approves AOA-accredited resident training programs in osteopathic medicine and surgery at hospitals for graduates of accredited osteopathic medical schools. The board recognizes specialty board certification by AOA. The board recognizes continuing medical education accredited by the Council on Continuing Medical Education of AOA.

“*Applicant*” means a person who seeks authorization to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or administrative medicine in this state by making application to the board, or a physician who seeks licensure through the IMLC.

“*Approved abuse education training program*” means a training program using a curriculum approved by the abuse education review panel of the department of public health or a training program offered by a hospital, a professional organization for physicians, or the department of human services, the department of education, an area education agency, a school district, the Iowa law enforcement academy, an Iowa college or university, or a similar state agency.

“*Board*” means Iowa board of medicine.

“*Board-approved resident training program*” means a hospital-affiliated graduate medical education program accredited by ACGME, AOA, RCPSA, or CFPC at the time the applicant is enrolled in the program.

“*Candidate*” means a person who applies to sit for an examination administered by the board or its designated testing service.

“*Category 1 credit*” means any formal education program which is sponsored or jointly sponsored by an organization accredited for continuing medical education by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the Iowa Medical Society, or the Council on Continuing Medical Education of AOA that is of sufficient scope and depth of coverage of a subject area or theme to form an educational unit and

is planned, administered and evaluated in terms of educational objectives that define a level of knowledge or a specific performance skill to be attained by the physician completing the program. Credits designated as formal cognates by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or as prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians are accepted as equivalent to category 1 credits.

“*CFPC*” means the College of Family Physicians of Canada, an organization that accredits graduate medical education in family practice in Canada.

“*COCA*” means the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

“*COMLEX*” means the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination that is recognized by the board as the licensure examination that replaced the NBOME examination for graduates of osteopathic medical schools or colleges.

“*Committee*” means the licensure committee of the board.

“*COMVEX-USA*” means the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable-Purpose Examination for the United States of America. The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners prepares the examination and determines its passing score. A licensing authority in any jurisdiction administers the examination. COMVEX-USA is the current evaluative instrument offered to osteopathic physicians who need to demonstrate current osteopathic medical knowledge.

“*Conviction*” for the purposes of licensure through the IMLC means a finding by a court that an individual is guilty of a criminal offense through adjudication, or entry of a plea of guilt or no contest to the charge by the offender. Evidence of an entry of conviction of a criminal offense by the court shall be considered final for the purposes of disciplinary action by a member board of the IMLC.

“*Core credentials*” means those documents that demonstrate the applicant’s identity, medical training and practice history. “Core credentials” includes but is not limited to: medical school verification, medical school diploma, examination history, current ECFMG status report, fifth pathway certificate, and postgraduate training verification.

“*Criminal offense*” for the purposes of licensure through the IMLC means a felony, gross misdemeanor, or crime of moral turpitude.

“*Current, active status*” means a license that is in effect and grants the privilege of practicing administrative medicine, medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery, as applicable.

“*ECFMG*” means the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, an organization that assesses the readiness of foreign medical school graduates to enter ACGME-approved graduate medical education programs in the United States.

“*Expedited license*” means a full and unrestricted medical license granted by a member state to an eligible physician through the process set forth in the IMLC.

“*FCVS*” means the Federation Credentials Verification Service, a service under the Federation of State Medical Boards that verifies and stores core credentials for retrieval whenever needed.

“*FLEX*” means the Federation Licensing Examination, a licensure examination used in the past that was approved by the board for graduates with a medical degree.

“*Foreign medical school,*” also known as an “international medical school,” means a medical school that is located outside of any United States jurisdiction or Canada.

“*FSMB*” means the Federation of State Medical Boards, the organization of medical boards of the United States of America.

“*IMLC*” means the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact enacted in Iowa Code chapter 147B.

“*Inactive license*” means any license that is not in current, active status. A physician whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa but may not practice under an inactive Iowa license until the inactive license is reinstated to active status.

“*Incidentally called into this state in consultation with a physician and surgeon licensed in this state*” as set forth in Iowa Code section 148.2(5) means all of the following shall be true:

1. The consulting physician shall be involved in the care of patients in Iowa only at the request of an Iowa-licensed physician.
2. The consulting physician has a license in good standing in another United States jurisdiction.
3. The consulting physician provides expertise and acts in an advisory capacity to an Iowa-licensed physician. The consulting physician may examine the patient and advise an Iowa-licensed physician as

to the care that should be provided, but the consulting physician may not personally perform procedures, write orders, or prescribe for the patient.

4. The consulting physician practices in Iowa for a period not greater than 10 consecutive days and not more than 20 total days in any calendar year. Any portion of a day counts as one day.

5. The Iowa-licensed physician requesting the consultation retains the primary responsibility for the management of the patient's care.

*"Initial license"* means the first permanent or administrative medicine license granted to a qualified individual.

*"International medical school,"* also known as a "foreign medical school," means a medical school that is located outside of any United States jurisdiction or Canada.

*"Interstate commission"* means the interstate commission created pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 147B.

*"LCME"* means Liaison Committee on Medical Education, an organization that accredits educational institutions granting degrees in medicine and surgery. The board approves programs that are accredited by LCME.

*"LMCC"* means enrollment in the Canadian Medical Register as Licentiate of Medical Council of Canada with a certificate of registration as proof. LMCC requires passing both parts of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination.

*"MCCEE"* means the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination, an examination administered in Canada to physicians who graduated from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada.

*"Medical degree"* means a degree of doctor of medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery or comparable education from a foreign medical school.

*"National Practitioner Data Bank"* is a national data bank of disciplinary actions taken against health professionals, including physicians.

*"NBME"* means the National Board of Medical Examiners, an organization that prepares and administers qualifying examinations, either independently or jointly with other organizations.

*"NBOME"* means the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, an organization that prepares and administers qualifying examinations for osteopathic physicians.

*"Observer"* means a person who is not enrolled in an LCME- or COCA-accredited medical school or osteopathic medical school, who observes care to patients in Iowa for a defined period of time and for a noncredit experience, and who is supervised and accompanied by an Iowa-licensed physician as defined in 9.2(3). An observer shall not provide or direct hands-on patient care, regardless of the observer's level of training or supervision. The supervising physician may authorize an observer to read a chart, observe a patient interview or examination, or witness procedures, including surgery. An observer shall not chart; touch a patient as part of an examination; conduct an interview; order, prescribe or administer medications; make decisions that affect patient care; direct others in providing patient care; or conduct procedures, including surgery. Any of these activities requires licensure to practice in Iowa. An unlicensed physician observer or a medical student observer who is not enrolled in an LCME- or COCA-accredited medical school may touch a patient to verify a physical finding in the immediate presence of a physician but shall not conduct a more inclusive physical examination.

An unlicensed physician observer may:

1. Participate in discussions regarding the care of individual patients, including offering suggestions about diagnosis or treatment, provided the unlicensed physician observer does not direct the care; and

2. Elicit information from a patient provided the unlicensed physician observer does not actually perform a physical examination or otherwise touch the patient.

*"Permanent licensure"* means licensure granted after review of the application and core credentials to determine that the individual is qualified to enter into clinical practice. The individual may only practice when the license is in current, active status.

*"Practice"* means the practice of medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.

*"Primary source verification"* means:

1. Verification of the authenticity of documents with the original source that issued the document.
2. Original source verification by another jurisdiction's physician licensing organization.
3. Original source verification by the FSMB's Federation Credentials Verification Service.

"RCPSC" means the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, an organization that accredits graduate medical education in Canada.

"Reinstatement" means the process for returning an inactive license to current, active status.

"Relinquishment" means that a person's permanent license to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or administrative medicine is deemed abandoned if the person fails to renew or reinstate the license within five years after its expiration. A license that has been relinquished is no longer valid or renewable. Relinquishment is not disciplinary in nature.

"Resident physician" means a physician enrolled in an internship, residency or fellowship.

"Resident training program" means a hospital-affiliated graduate medical education program that enrolls interns, residents or fellows and may be referred to as a postgraduate training program for purposes of licensure.

"Service charge" means the amount charged for making a service available on line and is in addition to the actual fee for a service itself. For example, one who renews a license on line will pay the license renewal fee and a service charge.

"SPEX" means Special Licensure Examination prepared by the Federation of State Medical Boards and administered by a licensing authority in any jurisdiction. The passing score on SPEX is 75.

"Terminated license" means a nondisciplinary process by which an Iowa license issued through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is no longer eligible for renewal. A compact license is terminated when a licensee no longer meets the IMLC qualifications. A terminated IMLC license may not be reinstated.

"Training for chronic pain management" means required training on chronic pain management identified in 653—Chapter 11.

"Training for end-of-life care" means required training on end-of-life care identified in 653—Chapter 11.

"Training for identifying and reporting abuse" means training on identifying and reporting child abuse or dependent adult abuse required of physicians who regularly provide primary health care to children or adults, respectively, as specified in 653—Chapter 11. The full requirements on mandatory reporting of child abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 232.69; the full requirements on mandatory reporting of dependent adult abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 235B.16.

"Uniform application for physician state licensure" means a web-based application that is intended to standardize and simplify the licensure application process for state medical licensure. The Federation of State Medical Boards created and maintains the application. This application is used for all license types issued by the Iowa board of medicine.

"USMLE" means the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 2346C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

### **653—9.2(147,148) General licensure provisions.**

**9.2(1) Licensure required.** Licensure is required for practice in Iowa as identified in Iowa Code section 148.1; the exceptions are identified in subrule 9.2(2). Provisions for permanent physician licensure, licensure through the IMLC, and administrative medicine licensure are found in this chapter; provisions for resident, special and temporary physician licensure are found in 653—Chapter 10.

**9.2(2) Licensure not required.** The following persons are not required to obtain a license to practice in Iowa:

- a. Those persons described in Iowa Code sections 148.2(1) to 148.2(5).

(1) A medical student or osteopathic medical student in an international medical school may not take on the role of a medical student in the patient care setting unless the student is enrolled in the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine or in Des Moines University's College of Osteopathic

Medicine; however, an international medical student not enrolled at either of these institutions may be an observer as defined in rule 653—9.1(147,148).

(2) A graduate of an international medical school shall not practice medicine without an Iowa medical license; however, the graduate may be an observer as defined in rule 653—9.1(147,148).

*b.* Those persons who are incidentally called into this state in consultation with a physician or surgeon licensed in this state as described in Iowa Code section 148.2(5) and as defined in rule 653—9.1(147,148).

*c.* Physicians and surgeons who hold a current, active license in good standing in another United States jurisdiction and who come into Iowa on a temporary basis to aid disaster victims at the time of a disaster in accordance with Iowa Code section 29C.6.

*d.* Physicians and surgeons who hold a current, active license in good standing in another United States jurisdiction and who come to Iowa to participate in further medical education may participate in patient care under the request and supervision of the patient's Iowa-licensed physician in charge of the education. The Iowa-licensed physician shall retain the primary responsibility for management of the patient's care.

*e.* Physicians and surgeons who hold a current, active license in good standing in another United States jurisdiction and who come into Iowa to serve as expert witnesses as long as they do not provide treatment.

*f.* Physicians and surgeons from out of state who hold a current, active license in good standing in another United States jurisdiction and who accompany one or more individuals into Iowa for the purpose of providing medical care to these individuals on a short-term basis, e.g., a team physician for an out-of-state college football team that comes into Iowa for a game.

*g.* Physicians and surgeons who come to Iowa to observe patient care and who do not provide or direct hands-on patient care.

*h.* Visiting resident physicians who come to Iowa to practice as part of their resident training program if under the supervision of an Iowa-licensed physician. An Iowa physician license is not required of a physician in training if the physician has a resident or permanent license in good standing in the home state of the resident training program. An Iowa temporary license is required of a physician in training if the physician does not hold a resident or permanent physician license in good standing in the home state of the resident training program (see rule 653—10.5(147,148)).

**9.2(3) *Supervision of an observer.*** An Iowa-licensed physician who supervises an observer shall accompany the observer and solicit consent from each patient, where feasible, for the observation. The physician shall inform the patient of the observer's background, e.g., high school student considering a medical career, a medical graduate who is working on licensure. The supervising physician shall ensure that the observer remains within the scope of an observer as defined in rule 653—9.1(147,148).

[ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

### **653—9.3(147,148) Eligibility for licensure.**

**9.3(1) *Requirements.*** To be eligible for permanent or administrative medicine licensure, an applicant shall meet all of the following requirements:

*a.* Fulfill the application requirements specified in rule 653—9.4(147,148).  
*b.* Hold a medical degree from an educational institution approved by the board at the time the applicant graduated and was awarded the degree.

(1) Educational institutions approved by the board shall be fully accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the board as schools of instruction in medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery and empowered to grant academic degrees in medicine.

(2) The accrediting bodies currently recognized by the board are:

1. LCME for the educational institutions granting degrees in medicine and surgery; and
2. AOA for educational institutions granting degrees in osteopathic medicine and surgery.

(3) If the applicant holds a medical degree from an educational institution not approved by the board at the time the applicant graduated and was awarded the degree, the applicant shall meet one of the following requirements:

1. Hold a valid certificate issued by ECFMG;
2. Pass the MCCEE;
3. Have successfully completed a fifth pathway program established in accordance with AMA criteria;
4. Have successfully passed either a basic science examination administered by a United States or Canadian medical licensing authority or SPEX; and have successfully completed three years of resident training in a program approved by the board; and have submitted evidence of five years of active practice without restriction as a licensee of any United States or Canadian jurisdiction; or

5. Have successfully passed either a basic science examination administered by a United States or Canadian medical licensing authority or SPEX; and hold board certification by a specialty board approved by ABMS or AOA; and submit evidence of five years of active practice without restriction as a licensee of any United States or Canadian jurisdiction.

*c.* Have successfully completed one year of resident training in a hospital-affiliated program approved by the board at the time the applicant was enrolled in the program. An applicant who is a graduate of an international medical school shall have successfully completed 24 months of such training.

(1) For those required to have 12 months of training, the program shall have been 12 months of progressive training in not more than two specialties and in not more than two programs approved for resident training by the board. For those required to have 24 months of training, the program shall have been 24 continuous months of progressive training in not more than two specialties and in not more than two programs approved for resident training by the board.

(2) Resident training approved by the board shall be accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the board for the purpose of accrediting resident training programs.

(3) The board approves resident training programs accredited by:

1. ACGME;
2. AOA;
3. RCPSC; and
4. CFPC.

(4) The board shall accept each 12 months of practice as a special licensee as equivalent to one year of resident training in a hospital-affiliated program approved by the board.

(5) The board may accept a current, active ABMS or AOA board certification obtained through an alternate pathway as equivalent to resident training in a hospital-affiliated program approved by the board. The alternate pathway must be a minimum of 24 months completed at an institution with a program approved by the board as specified in subparagraph 9.3(1) “c”(3).

*d.* Pass one of the licensure examinations or combinations as prescribed in rule 653—9.7(147,148).

**9.3(2) Exceptions to the eligibility requirements.**

*a.* A military service applicant or a veteran may apply for credit for verified military education, training, or service toward any experience or educational requirement for permanent licensure under this subrule or may be eligible for permanent licensure through reciprocity as specified in 653—Chapter 18.

*b.* A physician who holds a valid Letter of Qualification asserting eligibility for licensure through the IMLC is eligible for a permanent Iowa medical license.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.4(147,148) Licensure application.**

**9.4(1) Requirements.** To apply for licensure, an applicant shall:

*a.* Pay a nonrefundable initial application fee and fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks by the Iowa division of criminal investigation (DCI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as specified in 653—paragraph 8.4(1) “a”; and

*b.* Complete and submit forms provided by the board, including required core credentials, documents, a completed fingerprint packet, and a sworn statement by the applicant attesting to the truth

of all information provided by the applicant, which has been signed by the applicant in the physical presence (in the same room) of a notary public.

*c.* Pass one of the examinations as prescribed in rule 653—9.7(147,148) and authorize the testing authority to verify scores.

**9.4(2) Application.** The application shall require the following information:

*a.* Full legal name, date and place of birth, home address, mailing address, principal business address, and personal e-mail address regularly used by the applicant or licensee for correspondence with the board.

*b.* A photograph of the applicant suitable for positive identification.

*c.* A statement listing every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been authorized to practice, including license numbers and dates of issuance.

*d.* A chronology accounting for all time periods from the date the applicant entered medical school to the date of the application.

*e.* A certified statement of scores on any licensure examination required in rule 653—9.7(147,148) that the applicant has taken in any jurisdiction. An official FCVS Physician Information Profile that supplies this information for the applicant is a suitable alternative.

*f.* A photocopy of the applicant's medical degree issued by an educational institution.

(1) A complete translation of any diploma not written in English shall be submitted. An official transcript, written in English and received directly from the school, showing graduation from medical school is a suitable alternative.

(2) An official FCVS Physician Information Profile that supplies this information for the applicant is a suitable alternative.

(3) If a copy of the medical degree cannot be provided because of extraordinary circumstances, the board may accept other reliable evidence that the applicant obtained a medical degree from a specific educational institution.

*g.* A sworn statement from an official of the educational institution certifying the date the applicant received the medical degree and acknowledging what, if any, derogatory comments exist in the institution's record about the applicant. If a sworn statement from an official of the educational institution cannot be provided because of extraordinary circumstances, the board may accept other reliable evidence that the applicant obtained a medical degree from a specific educational institution.

*h.* An official transcript, or its equivalent, received directly from the school for every medical school attended if requested by the board. A complete translation of any transcript not written in English shall be submitted if requested by the board. An official FCVS Physician Information Profile that supplies this information for the applicant is a suitable alternative.

*i.* If the educational institution awarding the applicant the degree has not been approved by the board, the applicant shall provide a current ECFMG status report or evidence of successful completion of a fifth pathway program in accordance with criteria established by AMA. An official FCVS Physician Information Profile that supplies this information for the applicant is a suitable alternative.

*j.* Documentation of successful completion of resident training approved by the board as specified in paragraph 9.3(1)“c.” An official FCVS Physician Information Profile that supplies this information for the applicant is a suitable alternative.

*k.* Verification of an applicant's hospital and clinical staff privileges and other professional experience for the past five years if requested by the board.

*l.* A statement disclosing and explaining any informal or nonpublic actions, warnings issued, investigations conducted, or disciplinary actions taken, whether by voluntary agreement or formal action, by a medical or professional regulatory authority, an educational institution, a training or research program, or a health facility in any jurisdiction.

*m.* A statement of the applicant's physical and mental health, including full disclosure and a written explanation of any dysfunction or impairment which may affect the ability of the applicant to engage in practice and provide patients with safe and healthful care. Copies of evaluations, verification of medical condition from treating physicians, or other documentation may be requested if needed during the review process.

*n.* A statement disclosing and explaining the applicant's involvement in civil litigation related to practice in any jurisdiction. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process.

*o.* A statement disclosing and explaining any charge of a misdemeanor or felony involving the applicant filed in any jurisdiction, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding to have the conviction or plea set aside is pending. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process.

*p.* A completed fingerprint packet to facilitate a national criminal history background check. The fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the DCI and FBI criminal history background checks will be assessed to the applicant.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 1187C, IAB 11/27/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.5(147,148) Licensure by endorsement.** Rescinded ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18.

**653—9.6(147,148) Licensure by expedited endorsement.** Rescinded ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18.

**653—9.7(147,148) Licensure examinations.**

**9.7(1) USMLE.**

*a.* The USMLE is a joint program of FSMB and the NBME. The USMLE is a multipart examination consisting of Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3. Steps 1 and 2 are administered by NBME and ECFMG. The board contracts with FSMB for the administration of Step 3. USMLE Steps 1 and 2 were implemented in 1992; Step 3 was implemented in 1994.

*b.* Since 1999, Step 3 is a computerized examination offered at testing centers in the Des Moines area and other locations around Iowa and the United States.

*c.* Applications are available at Department of Examination Services, FSMB, 400 Fuller Wiser Road, Suite 300, Euless, Texas 76039, or [www.fsmb.org](http://www.fsmb.org).

*d.* Candidates who meet the following requirements are eligible to take USMLE Step 3:

(1) Submit a completed application form and pay the required examination fee as specified in rule 653—8.3(147,148,272C).

(2) Document successful completion of USMLE Steps 1 and 2 in accordance with the requirements of NBME. Graduates of a foreign medical school shall meet the requirements of ECFMG.

(3) Document holding a medical degree from a board-approved educational institution. If a candidate holds a medical degree from an educational institution not approved by the board at the time the applicant graduated and was awarded the degree, the candidate shall meet the requirements specified in subparagraph 9.3(1)“b”(3).

(4) Document successful completion of a minimum of seven calendar months of resident training in a program approved by the board at the time of the application for Step 3 or enrollment in a resident training program approved by the board at the time of the application for Step 3.

*e.* The following conditions shall apply to applicants for licensure in Iowa who utilize USMLE as the licensure examination.

(1) Passing Steps 1, 2, and 3 is required within a ten-year period beginning with the date of passing either Step 1 or Step 2, whichever occurred first. If the applicant did not pass Steps 1, 2, and 3 within the required time frame, then the requirement will be satisfied by either proof of active board certification by the ABMS or AOA or proof the delay was caused by participation in a joint M.D./Ph.D. or D.O./Ph.D. program.

(2) Step 3 may be taken and passed only after Steps 1 and 2 are passed.

(3) A score of 75 or better on each step shall constitute a passing score on that step.

(4) Each USMLE step must be passed individually, and individual step scores shall not be averaged to compute an overall score.

(5) A failure of any USMLE step, regardless of the jurisdiction for which it was taken, shall be considered a failure of that step for the purposes of Iowa licensure.

(6) Successful completion of a continuous, progressive three-year resident training program is required if the applicant passes the examination after more than six attempts on Step 1 or six attempts on Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS combined or three attempts on Step 3.

*f.* Any candidate deemed eligible to sit for USMLE Step 3 is required to adhere to the examination procedures and protocol established by FSMB and NBME in the following publications: USMLE Test Administration Standards and Policies and Procedures Regarding Indeterminate Scores and Irregular Behavior, FSMB, 400 Fuller Wiser Road, Suite 300, Eules, Texas 76039.

**9.7(2) NBME.**

*a.* NBME Part Examinations (Parts I, II, and III) were first administered in 1916. The last regular administration of Part I occurred in 1991, Part II in April 1992, and Part III in May 1994.

*b.* Successful completion of NBME Parts I, II, and III was a requirement for NBME certification.

*c.* A score of 75 or better on each part shall constitute a passing score on that part.

**9.7(3) FLEX.**

*a.* From 1968 to 1985, (Old) FLEX was a three-day examination. Day 1 covered basic science; Day 2 covered clinical science; and Day 3 covered clinical competency. Applicants who took Old FLEX shall provide evidence of successful achievement of at least two of the following:

(1) Certification under seal that the applicant passed FLEX with a FLEX-weighted average of 75 percent or better, as determined by the state medical licensing authority, in no more than two sittings.

(2) Verification under seal of medical licensure in the state that administered the examination.

(3) Evidence of current certification by an American specialty board approved or recognized by the Council of Medical Education of AMA, ABMS, or AOA.

*b.* From 1985 to 1994, (New) FLEX replaced the Old FLEX. New FLEX was a three-day nationally standardized examination consisting of two, one and one-half day components referred to as Component I (basic and clinical science principles and mechanisms underlying disease and modes of therapy) and Component II (knowledge and cognitive abilities required of a physician assuming independent responsibility for the general delivery of medical care to patients). The last regular administration of both components of New FLEX occurred in 1993. Two special administrations of New FLEX Component I were offered in 1994 to examinees who passed Component II but not Component I prior to 1994. To be eligible for licensure, the candidate must have passed both components with a FLEX score of 75 or better within a seven-year period beginning with the date of initial examination.

(1) Candidates who took the FLEX for the first time were required to take both components during the initial sitting. A candidate who failed either or both components must have repeated and passed the component failed, though Component II could only be repeated if the candidate had received a passing score of 75 percent or better on Component I.

(2) Eligible candidates were permitted to sit for the initial examination and reapply to the board to repeat a failed component or complete the entire examination two additional times. However, candidates who failed either or both components three times were required to wait one year, during which time the candidate was encouraged to obtain additional training, before being permitted to sit two additional times for either or both components of the FLEX.

**9.7(4) Combination examination sequences.** To accommodate individuals who had already passed some part of the NBME Parts or FLEX before implementation of the USMLE, the USMLE program recommended and the board approved the following licensing combinations of examinations for licensure only if completed prior to January 1, 2000. These combinations are now only acceptable from an applicant who already holds a license from any United States jurisdiction.

*a.* FLEX Component I plus USMLE Step 3 with a passing score of 75 or better on each examination;

*b.* NBME Part I or USMLE Step 1 plus NBME Part II or USMLE Step 2 plus FLEX Component II with a passing score of 75 or better on each examination; or

*c.* NBME Part I or USMLE Step 1 plus NBME Part II or USMLE Step 2 plus NBME Part III or USMLE Step 3 with a passing score of 75 or better on each examination.

**9.7(5) COMLEX.** COMLEX is a three-level examination that replaced the three-part NBOME examination. COMLEX Level 3 was first administered in February 1995; Level 2 was first administered in March 1997; and Level 1 was first administered in June 1998. All three examinations must be successfully completed in sequential order within ten years of the successful completion of COMLEX Level 1. If the applicant did not pass Levels 1, 2, and 3 within the required time frame, then the requirement will be satisfied by either proof of active board certification by the ABMS or AOA or proof the delay was caused by participation in a joint D.O./Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. program.

*a.* A standard score of 400 on Level 1 or Level 2 is required to pass the examination. A standard score of 350 on Level 3 is required to pass the examination.

*b.* A candidate shall have successfully completed a minimum of seven calendar months of resident training in a program approved by the board at the time of the application for Level 3 or enrollment in a resident training program approved by the board at the time of the application for Level 3.

*c.* Successful completion of a continuous, progressive three-year resident training program is required if the applicant passes the examination after more than six attempts on Level 1 or six attempts on Level 2 CE and Level 2 PF combined or three attempts on Level 3.

*d.* Each COMLEX level must be passed individually, and individual level scores shall not be averaged to compute an overall score.

*e.* Level 3 may be taken and passed only after Levels 1 and 2 are passed.

*f.* A failure of any COMLEX level, regardless of the jurisdiction for which it was taken, shall be considered a failure of that level for the purposes of Iowa licensure.

**9.7(6) NBOME.**

*a.* NBOME was a three-part examination. All three parts must have been successfully completed in sequential order within seven years of the successful completion of NBOME Part 1.

*b.* A passing score is required on each part of the examination.

*c.* A candidate shall have successfully completed a minimum of seven calendar months of resident training in a program approved by the board at the time of the application for NBOME Part 3. Candidates shall have completed their resident training by the last day of the month in which the examination was taken.

*d.* Successful completion of a three-year resident training program is required if the applicant passes the examination after more than six attempts on Part 1 or six attempts on Part 2 or three attempts on Part 3.

*e.* Each NBOME part must have been passed individually, and individual part scores shall not be averaged to compute an overall score.

*f.* Part 3 must have been taken and passed only after Parts 1 and 2 were passed.

*g.* A failure of any NBOME part, regardless of the jurisdiction for which it was taken, shall be considered a failure of that part for the purposes of Iowa licensure.

**9.7(7) LMCC.**

*a.* The board accepts toward Iowa licensure a verification of a licentiate's registration with the Medical Council of Canada, based on passing both parts of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination.

*b.* The Medical Council of Canada may be contacted at 1021 Thomas Spratt Place, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 5L5 or (613) 520-2240.

**9.7(8) State licensing examinations.** The Iowa board of medicine administered a state licensing examination until 1968. Licensing examinations administered by the Iowa board of medicine or another U.S. jurisdiction prior to 1974 are accepted if the examination was passed according to criteria established by that state at the time and led to licensure in that state.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.8(147,148) Permanent licensure application review process.** The process below shall be utilized to review each application. Priority shall be given to processing a licensure application when a written request is received in the board office from an applicant whose practice will primarily involve

provision of services to underserved populations, including but not limited to persons who are minorities or low-income or who live in rural areas.

**9.8(1)** An application for initial licensure shall be considered open from the date the application form is received in the board office with the nonrefundable initial licensure fee.

**9.8(2)** After reviewing each application, board staff shall notify the applicant about how to resolve any problems. An applicant shall provide additional information when requested by staff or the board.

**9.8(3)** If the final review indicates no questions or concerns regarding the applicant's qualifications for licensure, staff may administratively grant the license. The staff may grant the license without having received a report on the applicant from the FBI.

**9.8(4)** If the final review indicates questions or concerns that cannot be remedied by continued communication with the physician, the executive director, director of licensure and director of legal affairs shall determine if the questions or concerns indicate any uncertainty about the applicant's current qualifications for licensure.

*a.* If there is no current concern, staff shall administratively grant the license.

*b.* If any concern exists, the application shall be referred to the committee.

**9.8(5)** Staff shall refer to the committee for review matters which include but are not limited to: falsification of information on the application, criminal record, malpractice, substance abuse, competency, physical or mental illness, or professional disciplinary history.

**9.8(6)** If the committee is able to eliminate questions or concerns without dissension from staff or a committee member, the committee may direct staff to grant the license administratively.

**9.8(7)** If the committee is not able to eliminate questions or concerns without dissension from staff or a committee member, the committee shall recommend that the board:

*a.* Request an investigation;

*b.* Request that the applicant appear for an interview;

*c.* If the physician has not engaged in active clinical practice or board-approved training in the past three years in any jurisdiction of the United States or Canada, require an applicant to:

(1) Successfully pass a competency evaluation approved by the board;

(2) Successfully pass SPEX, COMVEX-USA, or another examination approved by the board;

(3) Successfully complete a retraining program arranged by the physician and approved in advance by the board; or

(4) Successfully complete a reentry to practice program or monitoring program approved by the board.

*d.* Grant a license;

*e.* Grant a license under certain terms and conditions or with certain restrictions;

*f.* Request that the applicant withdraw the licensure application; or

*g.* Deny a license.

**9.8(8)** The board shall consider applications and recommendations from the committee and shall:

*a.* Request further investigation;

*b.* Require that the applicant appear for an interview;

*c.* If the physician has not engaged in active clinical practice or board-approved training in the past three years in any jurisdiction of the United States or Canada, require an applicant to:

(1) Successfully pass a competency evaluation approved by the board;

(2) Successfully pass SPEX, COMVEX-USA, or another examination approved by the board;

(3) Successfully complete a retraining program arranged by the physician and approved in advance by the board; or

(4) Successfully complete a reentry to practice program or monitoring program approved by the board.

*d.* Grant a license;

*e.* Grant a license under certain terms and conditions or with certain restrictions;

*f.* Request that the applicant withdraw the licensure application; or

g. Deny a license. The board may deny a license for any grounds on which the board may discipline a license. The procedure for appealing a license denial is set forth in rule 653—9.17(147,148). [ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

### **653—9.9(147,148) Licensure application cycle.**

**9.9(1) Failure to submit application materials.** If the applicant does not submit all materials, including a completed fingerprint packet, within 90 days of the board's initial request for further information, the application shall be considered inactive. The board office shall notify the applicant of this change in status.

**9.9(2) Reactivation of the application.** To reactivate the application, an applicant shall submit a nonrefundable fee for reactivation of the application as specified in 653—paragraph 8.4(1) "b" within 30 days. If the application is not reactivated within 30 days, the application for licensure is withdrawn and the applicant must reapply and submit a new nonrefundable application fee and a new application, documents and core credentials.

**9.9(3) Period of reactivation.** The period for reactivation of application shall extend 90 days from the date the request and fee are received in the board office. During this period, the applicant shall update core credentials and submit the remaining requested materials. If the applicant does not update core credentials or submit all materials during the 90-day period of reactivation, the application for licensure is withdrawn and the applicant must reapply and submit a new nonrefundable application fee and a new application, documents and core credentials.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.10(147,148) Discretionary board actions on licensure applications.** As circumstances warrant, the board may determine that any applicant for licensure is subject to the following:

**9.10(1)** The board may impose limits or restrictions on the practice of any applicant in this state that are equal in force to the limits or restrictions imposed on the applicant by any jurisdiction.

**9.10(2)** The board may defer final action on an application for licensure if there is an investigation or disciplinary action pending against an applicant in any jurisdiction until such time as the board is satisfied that licensure of the applicant poses no risk to the health and safety of Iowans.

**9.10(3)** The board is not precluded from taking disciplinary action after licensure is granted related to issues that arose in the licensure application process.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

### **653—9.11(147,148) Issuance of a license.**

**9.11(1) Issuance.** Upon the granting of permanent or administrative medicine licensure, staff shall issue a license to practice that shall expire on the first day of the licensee's birth month.

a. Licenses of persons born in even-numbered years shall expire in an even-numbered year, and licenses of persons born in odd-numbered years shall expire in an odd-numbered year.

b. The license shall not be issued for a period less than two months or greater than two years and two months, in accordance with the licensee's month and year of birth.

c. When a resident physician receives a permanent Iowa license, the resident physician license shall immediately become inactive.

d. When a physician with a special license receives a permanent Iowa license, the special license shall immediately become inactive.

e. When a physician with a permanent Iowa license receives an Iowa administrative medicine license, the permanent Iowa license shall immediately become inactive.

f. A physician with an active permanent Iowa license is ineligible for an Iowa resident license.

**9.11(2) Display of license certificate.** The license certificate shall be displayed in the licensee's primary location of practice.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.12(147,148) Notification required to change the board's data system.**

**9.12(1) *Change of contact information.*** A licensee shall notify the board of any change in the home address, the address of the place of practice, home or practice telephone number, or personal e-mail address regularly used by the applicant or licensee for correspondence with the board within one month of the change.

**9.12(2) *Change of name.*** A licensee shall notify the board of any change in name within one month of making the name change. Notification requires a notarized copy of a marriage license or a notarized copy of court documents.

**9.12(3) *Deceased.*** A licensee file shall be closed and labeled "deceased" when the board receives a copy of the physician's death certificate or other reliable information of the licensee's death.

**9.12(4) *Practice name.*** A licensee shall practice under the licensee's full legal name.  
[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.13(147,148) Renewal of a permanent or administrative medicine license.**

**9.13(1) *Renewal notice.*** Staff shall send a renewal notice to each licensee at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. The renewal notice may be sent by e-mail or by regular mail at the discretion of staff. If e-mail is used for notification of licensure renewal, the notice shall be sent to the personal e-mail address specified in subrule 9.12(1).

**9.13(2) *Licensee obligation.*** The licensee is responsible for renewing the license prior to its expiration. Failure of the licensee to receive the notice does not relieve the licensee of responsibility for renewing that license.

**9.13(3) *Renewal application requirements.*** A licensee seeking renewal shall submit a completed renewal application; information on continuing education, training on chronic pain management, training on end-of-life care, and training on identifying and reporting abuse; and the required fee prior to the expiration date on the current license.

*a.* Renewal fee.

(1) The fees for renewal made via paper application or via on-line application are specified in 653—subparagraph 8.4(1) "c"(1) and are assessed per biennial period or a prorated portion thereof if the current license was issued for a period of less than 24 months.

(2) There is no renewal fee due for a physician who was on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, reserves or national guard during the renewal period. "Active duty" means full-time training or active service in the U.S. armed forces, reserves or national guard.

(3) A physician who fails to renew before the expiration of the license shall be charged a penalty fee as set forth in 653—paragraph 8.4(1) "d."

*b.* The requirements for continuing education and training on identifying and reporting abuse are found in 653—Chapter 11.

*c.* The first renewal fee shall be prorated on a monthly basis according to the date of issuance and the physician's month and year of birth, if the initial permanent or administrative medicine license was issued for a period of less than 24 months.

**9.13(4) *Issuance of a renewal.*** Upon receiving the completed renewal application, staff shall administratively issue a two-year license that expires on the first day of the licensee's birth month. In the event the board receives adverse information on the renewal application, the board shall issue the renewal license but may refer the adverse information for further consideration.

**9.13(5) *Renewal penalties.*** If the licensee fails to submit the renewal application and renewal fee prior to the expiration date on the current license, the licensee shall be charged a penalty fee as set forth in 653—paragraph 8.4(1) "d."

**9.13(6) *Failure to renew.*** Failure of the licensee to renew a license within two months following its expiration date shall cause the license to become inactive and invalid. A licensee whose license is invalid or inactive is prohibited from practice until the license is reinstated in accordance with rule 653—9.15(147,148).

*a.* In order to ensure that the license will not become inactive when a paper renewal form is used, the completed renewal application and appropriate fees must be received in the board office by the fifteenth of the month prior to the month the license becomes inactive. For example, a licensee whose license expires on January 1 has until March 1 to renew the license or the license becomes inactive and invalid. The licensee must submit and the board office must receive the renewal materials prior to or on February 15 to ensure that the license will be renewed prior to becoming inactive and invalid on March 1.

*b.* In order to ensure that the license will not become inactive when on-line renewal is used, the licensee must complete the on-line renewal prior to midnight of the last day of the month in the month after the expiration date on the license. For example, a licensee whose license expiration date is January 1 must complete the on-line renewal before midnight on the last day of February; the license becomes inactive and invalid at 12:01 a.m. on March 1.

**9.13(7) *Display of license.*** Renewal licenses shall be displayed along with the license certificate in the primary location of practice.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 0871C, IAB 7/24/13, effective 8/28/13; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

### **653—9.14(147,148) Inactive status and reinstatement of a license.**

**9.14(1) *Definition of inactive status.*** An inactive license is any license that is not a current, active license.

*a.* “Inactive status” may include licenses formerly known as delinquent, lapsed, or retired.

*b.* A physician with an inactive license may not practice medicine until the license is reinstated to current, active status.

*c.* A physician whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa but may not practice medicine under an Iowa license until the license is reinstated to current, active status. A licensee who practices under an Iowa license when the license is inactive may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, or other available legal remedies.

**9.14(2) *Mechanisms for becoming inactive.*** A licensee seeking to become inactive may do so by submitting a written request to the board office or by failing to renew a license by the first day of the third month after the expiration date. For example, a licensee whose license expires on January 1 will be considered inactive if the license is not renewed by March 1.

**9.14(3) *Fee.*** There is no fee to become inactive.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

### **653—9.15(147,148) Reinstatement of an unrestricted Iowa license.**

**9.15(1) *Reinstatement within one year of the license’s becoming inactive.*** An individual whose license is in inactive status for up to one year and who wishes to reinstate the license shall submit a completed renewal application; the reinstatement fee; documentation of continuing education; and, if applicable, documentation on training on chronic pain management, end-of-life care, and identifying and reporting abuse. All of the information shall be received in the board office within one year of the license’s becoming inactive for the applicant to reinstate under this subrule. For example, a physician whose license became inactive on March 1 has until the last day of the following February to renew under this subrule.

*a. *Fee for reinstatement of an unrestricted Iowa license within one year of the license’s becoming inactive.** The reinstatement fee is specified in 653—paragraph 8.4(1) “g” when the license in the most recent license period had been granted for less than 24 months; in that case, the reinstatement fee is prorated according to the date of issuance and the physician’s month and year of birth.

*b. *Continuing education and training requirements.** The requirements for continuing education, training on chronic pain management, training on end-of-life care, and training on identifying and reporting abuse are found in 653—Chapter 11. Applicants for reinstatement shall provide documentation of having completed:

(1) The number of hours of category 1 credit needed for renewal in the most recent license period. None of the credits obtained in the inactive period may be carried over to a future license period; and

(2) Training on chronic pain management, end-of-life care, and identifying and reporting abuse, if applicable, within the previous five years.

*c. Issuance of a reinstated license.* Upon receiving the completed application, staff shall administratively issue a license that expires on the renewal date that would have been in effect if the licensee had renewed the license before the license expired.

*d. Reinstatement application process.* The applicant who fails to submit all reinstatement information required within 365 days of the license's becoming inactive shall be required to meet the reinstatement requirements of 9.15(2). For example, if a physician's license expires on January 1, the completed reinstatement application is due in the board office by December 31, in order to meet the requirements of this subrule.

**9.15(2) Reinstatement of an unrestricted Iowa license that has been inactive for one year or longer.** An individual whose license is in inactive status and who has not submitted a reinstatement application that was received by the board within one year of the license's becoming inactive shall follow the application cycle specified in this rule and shall satisfy the following requirements for reinstatement:

*a.* Submit an application for reinstatement to the board upon forms provided by the board. The application shall require the following information:

(1) Full legal name, date and place of birth, license number, home address, mailing address, principal business address, and personal e-mail address regularly used by the applicant or licensee for correspondence with the board;

(2) A photograph of the applicant suitable for positive identification;

(3) A chronology accounting for all time periods from the date of initial licensure;

(4) Every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been authorized to practice including license numbers and dates of issuance;

(5) Documentation of successful completion of resident training approved by the board as specified in paragraph 9.3(1)“c” which was completed since the time of initial licensure. An official FCVS Physician Information Profile that supplies this information for the applicant is a suitable alternative;

(6) Verification of the applicant's hospital and clinical staff privileges, and other professional experience for the past five years if requested by the board;

(7) A statement disclosing and explaining any warnings issued, investigations conducted or disciplinary actions taken, whether by voluntary agreement or formal action, by a medical or professional regulatory authority, an educational institution, training or research program, or health facility in any jurisdiction;

(8) A statement of the applicant's physical and mental health, including full disclosure and a written explanation of any dysfunction or impairment which may affect the ability of the applicant to engage in practice and provide patients with safe and healthful care. Copies of evaluations, verification of medical condition from treating physicians, or other documentation may be requested if needed during the review process;

(9) A statement disclosing and explaining the applicant's involvement in civil litigation related to practice in any jurisdiction. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process;

(10) A statement disclosing and explaining any charge of a misdemeanor or felony involving the applicant filed in any jurisdiction, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process; and

(11) A completed fingerprint packet to facilitate a national criminal history background check. The fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the DCI and FBI criminal history background checks will be assessed to the applicant.

*b.* Pay the reinstatement fee plus the fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the DCI and FBI criminal history background checks specified in 653—paragraph 8.4(1)“f.”

c. Provide documentation of completion of 40 hours of category 1 credit within the previous two years and documentation of training on chronic pain management, end-of-life care, and identifying and reporting abuse as specified in 653—Chapter 11.

d. If the physician has not engaged in active clinical practice or board-approved training in the past three years in any jurisdiction of the United States or Canada, require an applicant to:

- (1) Successfully pass a competency evaluation approved by the board;
- (2) Successfully pass SPEX, COMVEX-USA, or another examination approved by the board;
- (3) Successfully complete a retraining program arranged by the physician and approved in advance by the board; or
- (4) Successfully complete a reentry to practice program or monitoring program approved by the board.

e. An individual who is able to submit a letter from the board with different reinstatement or reactivation criteria is eligible for reinstatement based on those criteria.

**9.15(3) Reinstatement application cycle and process.** The cycle and process are the same as described in rules 653—9.8(147,148) and 653—9.9(147,148).

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 0215C, IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12; ARC 1187C, IAB 11/27/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 2524C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.16(147,148) Reinstatement of a restricted Iowa license.** A physician whose license has been suspended or revoked following a disciplinary proceeding is required to seek reinstatement pursuant to 653—Chapter 26.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10]

**653—9.17(147,148) Denial of licensure or determined to be ineligible for licensure through the IMLC or termination of a license issued through the IMLC.**

**9.17(1) Preliminary notice of denial.** Prior to the denial of licensure to an applicant, the board shall issue a preliminary notice of denial that shall be sent to the applicant by regular, first-class mail at the address provided by the applicant. The preliminary notice of denial is a public record and shall cite the factual and legal basis for denying the application, notify the applicant of the appeal process, and specify the date upon which the denial will become final if it is not appealed.

**9.17(2) Appeal procedure.** An applicant who has received a preliminary notice of licensure denial or a Letter of Qualification that asserts the board has determined that the applicant is ineligible for licensure through the IMLC, or a notice that a medical license is ineligible for renewal through the IMLC, may appeal and request a hearing on the issues related to the preliminary notice of licensure denial or ineligibility for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC by serving a request for hearing upon the executive director not more than 30 calendar days following the date when the notice was mailed. The applicant's current address shall be provided in the request for hearing. The request is deemed filed on the date it is received in the board office. If the request is received with a USPS nonmetered postmark, the board shall consider the postmark date as the date the request is filed. The request shall specify the factual or legal errors and that the applicant desires an evidentiary hearing, and may provide additional written information or documents in support of licensure, or a Letter of Qualification that asserts the applicant is eligible for licensure through the IMLC, or the applicant is eligible for licensure renewal through the IMLC.

**9.17(3) Hearing.** If an applicant appeals the preliminary notice of licensure denial or a determination of ineligibility for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC and requests a hearing, the hearing shall be a contested case and subsequent proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with 653—25.30(17A).

a. Hearings for applicants denied licensure, or determined to be ineligible for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC are contested cases open to the public.

b. Either party may request issuance of a protective order in the event privileged or confidential information is submitted into evidence.

c. Evidence supporting the denial of the license or the determination of ineligibility for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC may be presented by an assistant attorney general.

*d.* While each party shall have the burden of establishing the affirmative of matters asserted, the applicant shall have the ultimate burden of persuasion as to the applicant's qualification for licensure or licensure eligibility or licensure renewal through IMLC.

*e.* The board, after a hearing on license denial, may grant or deny the application for licensure. The board shall state the reasons for its decision and may grant the license, grant the license with restrictions or deny the license. The final decision is a public record. After a hearing on ineligibility for licensure renewal through the IMLC, the board may uphold the termination of the license or allow the licensee to renew. The board shall state the reasons for its decision, which is a public record. After a hearing on a Letter of Qualification determination, the board may uphold the ineligible determination or issue a Letter of Qualification asserting the applicant is eligible for licensure through the IMLC. The board shall state the reasons for its decision, which is a public record.

*f.* Judicial review of a final order of the board denying licensure, issuing a license with restrictions, terminating a license not eligible for renewal through the IMLC, or upholding a Letter of Qualification asserting that an applicant is ineligible for licensure through the IMLC may be sought in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.19, which are applicable to judicial review of any agency's final decision in a contested case.

**9.17(4) Finality.** If an applicant does not appeal a preliminary notice of denial in accordance with 9.17(2), the preliminary notice of denial automatically becomes final. A final denial of an application for licensure is a public record.

**9.17(5) Failure to pursue appeal.** If an applicant appeals a preliminary notice of licensure denial or a notice of ineligibility for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC, in accordance with 9.17(2), but the applicant fails to pursue that appeal to a final decision within one year from the date of the preliminary notice of licensure denial or a notice of ineligibility for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC, the board may dismiss the appeal. The appeal may be dismissed only after the board sends a written notice by first-class mail to the applicant at the applicant's last-known address. The notice shall state that the appeal will be dismissed and that the preliminary notice of licensure denial or a notice of ineligibility for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC will become final if the applicant does not contact the board to schedule the appeal hearing within 30 days of the date the letter is mailed from the board office. Upon dismissal of an appeal, the preliminary notice of licensure denial or a notice of ineligibility for licensure or licensure renewal through the IMLC becomes final. A final decision under this rule is a public record.

[ARC 7756B, IAB 5/6/09, effective 6/10/09; ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

**653—9.18(17A,147,148,272C) Waiver requests.** Waiver requests shall be submitted in conformance with 653—Chapter 3.

[ARC 8554B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; ARC 5600C, IAB 5/5/21, effective 6/9/21]

**653—9.19(147,148) Relinquishment of license to practice.** A person's permanent license to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or administrative medicine shall be deemed relinquished if the person fails to apply for renewal or reinstatement of the license within five years after its expiration.

**9.19(1)** A license shall not be reinstated, reissued, or restored once it is relinquished. The person may apply for a new license pursuant to Iowa Code sections 148.3 and 148.11 and 653—Chapters 9 and 10.

**9.19(2)** The relinquishment of license may be stayed if, at the date of relinquishment, there is an active:

- a.* Evaluation order pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.9(1) and rule 653—24.4(272);
- b.* Combined statement of charges and settlement agreement pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10(2) and 272C.3(4) and rule 653—25.3(17A);
- c.* Statement of charges pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.12(2) and rule 653—25.4(17A);
- d.* Settlement agreement pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10(2) and 272C.3(4) and rule 653—25.17(272C);

*e.* Final decision pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.12 and 272C.6 and rule 653—25.24(17A); or

*f.* Application for reinstatement of the license pursuant to rule 653—9.15(147,148) or 653—9.16(147,148).

[ARC 2346C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

### **653—9.20(147,148) Administrative medicine licensure.**

**9.20(1) Application.** An application for an administrative medicine license shall be made to the board of medicine pursuant to the requirements established in Iowa Code section 148.3 and this chapter. An applicant for an administrative medicine license shall be subject to all of the permanent licensure requirements established in Iowa Code section 148.3 and this chapter, except that the applicant shall not be required to demonstrate that the applicant has engaged in active clinical practice in the past three years as outlined in paragraphs 9.8(7) “*c*” and 9.15(2) “*d*.”

The board may, in its discretion, issue an administrative medicine license authorizing the licensee to practice administrative medicine only, as defined by this rule. The license shall be designated “administrative medicine license.”

**9.20(2) Fees.** All license and renewal fees shall be paid to the board in accordance with 653—Chapters 8 and 9.

#### **9.20(3) Demonstration of competence.**

*a.* If an applicant for initial licensure or reinstatement of an administrative medicine license has not actively practiced administrative or clinical medicine in a jurisdiction of the United States or Canada in the past three years, the board may require the applicant to demonstrate competence in a method prescribed by the board in accordance with paragraphs 9.8(7) “*c*” and 9.15(2) “*d*.”

*b.* A physician who holds an administrative medicine license and has not engaged in active clinical practice in a jurisdiction of the United States or Canada for more than three years may be required to demonstrate competence to practice clinical medicine in a method prescribed by the board in accordance with paragraphs 9.8(7) “*c*” and 9.15(2) “*d*” prior to obtaining a permanent Iowa medical license.

**9.20(4) No exemptions to laws and rules.** A physician with an administrative medicine license shall be subject to the same laws and rules governing the practice of medicine as a person holding a permanent Iowa medical license.

**9.20(5) Only one active license at a time.** When applicable, a person’s active Iowa permanent or Iowa resident license shall immediately become inactive upon issuance of an administrative license.

**9.20(6) Interstate medical licensure compact.** A physician who holds only an administrative medicine license may not be eligible for licensure under the interstate medical licensure compact.

[ARC 2523C, IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16; ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

### **653—9.21(147,147B,148) Licensure through IMLC.**

**9.21(1) Requirements for seeking a Letter of Qualification from the Iowa board of medicine.** An applicant shall meet all of the following requirements:

*a.* Designate Iowa as state of principal license. To designate Iowa as state of principal license, the physician must possess a full, unrestricted, permanent Iowa medical license and meet one of the following requirements at the time the application for a Letter of Qualification is reviewed by board staff:

- (1) Iowa is the physician’s primary residence, or
- (2) At least 25 percent of the physician’s medical practice occurs in Iowa, or
- (3) The physician’s employer is located in Iowa, or
- (4) If the applicant does not meet any of the requirements under (1), (2), or (3), the applicant can designate Iowa as the state of principal license if Iowa is the applicant’s state of residence for the purposes of federal income tax.

*b.* Provide evidence of the following qualifications:

- (1) Graduation from a medical school accredited by the LCME, COCA, or a medical school listed in the International Medical Education Directory or its equivalent.

(2) Passage of each component of the USMLE or the COMLEX within three attempts, or any of its predecessor examinations accepted by the board as an equivalent examination for licensure purposes as prescribed in rule 653—9.7(147,148).

(3) Successful completion of graduate medical education approved by the ACGME or the AOA. “Successful completion” means participation in an ACGME or AOA postgraduate training program that achieves ABMS or AOA board eligibility status. A one-year transitional internship or a one-year rotating internship does not qualify as graduate medical education required in Iowa Code section 147B.1(2) “k”(3) and IMLC Section 5.4(1) “c.”

(4) Hold specialty certification or a time-unlimited specialty certificate recognized by the ABMS or the AOA. The specialty certification or a time-unlimited specialty certificate does not have to be maintained once a physician is determined to be eligible for licensure through the IMLC.

(5) Has never been convicted of or received adjudication, deferred adjudication, community supervision, or deferred disposition for any criminal offense by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

(6) Has never held a license authorizing the practice of medicine subjected to discipline by a licensing agency in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction, excluding any action related to nonpayment of fees related to a license.

(7) Has never had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked by a state or the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

(8) Is not under active investigation by a licensing agency or law enforcement authority in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction.

**9.21(2) Application.** A physician seeking licensure through the IMLC who is qualified to designate Iowa as state of principal license shall file an application for a Letter of Qualification with the interstate commission at [www.imlcc.org](http://www.imlcc.org). The application shall require the following:

*a.* Payment of a nonrefundable service fee to the interstate commission for an application for a Letter of Qualification. This service fee includes the cost for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks by the Iowa division of criminal investigation (DCI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as specified in 653—subrule 8.3(1); and

*b.* Completion and submission of forms provided by the board, including required core credentials, documents, a completed fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks by the DCI and the FBI, and a sworn statement by the applicant attesting to the truth of all information provided by the applicant.

**9.21(3) Letter of Qualification.**

*a.* After receipt of all application materials, the board shall:

(1) Evaluate the applicant’s eligibility for licensure through the IMLC by primary source verification of medical education, graduate medical education, licensing examination results, and other qualifications as determined by IMLC rule;

(2) Perform a criminal background check; and

(3) Issue a Letter of Qualification to the applicant verifying or denying the applicant’s eligibility. The applicant may appeal a determination of eligibility to the Iowa board of medicine within 30 days of issuance of the Letter of Qualification according to the processes outlined in rule 653—9.17(147,148).

*b.* The Letter of Qualification is valid for a period of 365 days from its date of issuance to request licensure in a member state. During this period, the physician must maintain eligibility to claim Iowa as the state of principal license or designate a new state of principal license.

**9.21(4) Expedited licensure.** Physicians who have a valid Letter of Qualification may obtain licensure in Iowa through the IMLC. To obtain a permanent Iowa license through the IMLC, a qualified physician shall:

*a.* Complete the application process at the IMLC’s website, [www.imlcc.org](http://www.imlcc.org).

*b.* Pay the licensure fee specified in 653—subrule 8.3(2) and any service fees that are required by the IMLC.

*c.* Comply with the continuing medical education requirements of the board, including mandatory trainings specified in 653—Chapter 11.

**9.21(5) *Validity of a license issued through the IMLC.*** A license issued through the IMLC is valid for a period consistent with other permanent licenses issued by the board. An Iowa license issued through the IMLC shall be deemed terminated if the licensee fails to maintain a state of principal license.

**9.21(6) *Disciplinary actions against licenses issued through the IMLC.***

*a.* Physicians holding an Iowa license issued through the IMLC are subject to the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa.

*b.* Any disciplinary action taken by another member board of the IMLC against a physician licensed through IMLC shall be deemed unprofessional conduct which may be subject to discipline by the board in addition to any other violation of the board's rules deemed appropriate by the board.

*c.* If a license issued through the IMLC to a physician is revoked, surrendered, or relinquished in lieu of discipline, or suspended by a member board of the IMLC, then the physician's Iowa expedited license is automatically and immediately suspended, without further action needed, for a period of 90 days upon entry of an order by the board. The 90-day suspension may be terminated early by the board.

*d.* Any disciplinary action taken by another member board not in the state of principal license may be deemed conclusive as to the matter of law and fact decided, and the board may either impose the same or lesser sanctions against the physician so long as such sanctions are consistent with the board's laws and rules or pursue separate disciplinary action against the physician pursuant to the board's laws and rules.

*e.* If the Iowa board, as the physician's state of principal license, revokes or suspends the physician's license, or accepts a license surrender in lieu of discipline, then all licenses issued to the physician through the IMLC shall automatically be placed, without further action necessary by any member board, on the same status. If the Iowa board subsequently reinstates the physician's license, the licenses issued by the other member boards shall remain encumbered until the member boards take action to reinstate the licenses.

**9.21(7) *Renewal of license issued through the IMLC.*** To be eligible for renewal of a license issued through the IMLC, a licensee shall:

*a.* Complete an online renewal application on a form provided by the IMLC at [www.imlcc.org](http://www.imlcc.org).

*b.* Complete an attestation that the licensee:

(1) Maintains eligibility to designate a state as the state of principal license, pursuant to paragraph 9.21(1) "a";

(2) Maintains a full and unrestricted license in the designated state of principal license;

(3) Has not been convicted of or received adjudication, deferred adjudication, community supervision, or deferred disposition for any offense by a court of appropriate jurisdiction;

(4) Has not had a license authorizing the practice of medicine subject to discipline by a licensing agency in any state, federal or foreign jurisdiction, excluding any action related to nonpayment of fees related to a license;

(5) Has not had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked by a state or the U.S. DEA.

*c.* Pay licensure fee for the renewal of a license issued through the IMLC and pay any service fee assessed by the IMLC.

*d.* If audited, submit verification of completion of continuing medical education requirements set forth in 653—Chapter 11.

**9.21(8) *Waivers.*** The laws and rules relating to the IMLC cannot be waived.

**9.21(9) *Advisory opinions.*** The board will recognize advisory opinions issued by the interstate commission on the meaning or interpretation of the IMLC, its bylaws, rules and actions when determining an applicant's eligibility for licensure through the IMLC.

[ARC 3587C, IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 147B, 148, and 272C.

[Filed 5/11/01, Notice 4/4/01—published 5/30/01, effective 7/4/01]

[Filed 2/14/02, Notice 11/28/01—published 3/6/02, effective 4/10/02]

[Filed emergency 4/12/02—published 5/1/02, effective 4/12/02]

[Filed 4/12/02, Notice 3/6/02—published 5/1/02, effective 6/5/02]

[Filed 6/6/02, Notice 5/1/02—published 6/26/02, effective 7/31/02]  
[Filed emergency 10/9/02 after Notice 8/21/02—published 10/30/02, effective 10/9/02]  
[Filed emergency 2/7/03 after Notice 1/8/03—published 3/5/03, effective 2/7/03]  
[Filed emergency 8/28/03 after Notice 7/23/03—published 9/17/03, effective 9/1/03]  
[Filed 7/16/04, Notice 6/9/04—published 8/4/04, effective 9/8/04]  
[Filed 9/9/04, Notice 8/4/04—published 9/29/04, effective 11/3/04]<sup>◊</sup>  
[Filed 12/30/04, Notice 11/24/04—published 1/19/05, effective 2/23/05]  
[Filed 6/17/05, Notice 5/11/05—published 7/6/05, effective 8/10/05]  
[Filed emergency 8/30/05 after Notice 7/6/05—published 9/28/05, effective 10/1/05]  
[Filed 10/12/06, Notice 8/2/06—published 11/8/06, effective 1/1/07]  
[Filed 12/14/06, Notice 11/8/06—published 1/17/07, effective 2/21/07]  
[Filed emergency 2/8/07 after Notice 1/3/07—published 2/28/07, effective 3/1/07]  
[Filed emergency 11/21/07 after Notice 10/10/07—published 12/19/07, effective 1/1/08]  
[Filed 4/3/08, Notice 2/27/08—published 4/23/08, effective 5/28/08]  
[Filed 9/18/08, Notice 8/13/08—published 10/8/08, effective 11/12/08]<sup>◊</sup>  
[Filed ARC 7756B (Notice ARC 7607B, IAB 3/11/09), IAB 5/6/09, effective 6/10/09]  
[Filed ARC 8554B (Notice ARC 8379B, IAB 12/16/09), IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10]  
[Filed ARC 0215C (Notice ARC 0090C, IAB 4/18/12), IAB 7/25/12, effective 8/29/12]  
[Filed ARC 0871C (Notice ARC 0697C, IAB 5/1/13), IAB 7/24/13, effective 8/28/13]  
[Filed ARC 1187C (Notice ARC 0943C, IAB 8/7/13), IAB 11/27/13, effective 1/1/14]  
[Filed ARC 2346C (Notice ARC 2203C, IAB 10/14/15), IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]  
[Filed ARC 2523C (Notice ARC 2359C, IAB 1/6/16), IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16]  
[Filed ARC 2524C (Notice ARC 2360C, IAB 1/6/16), IAB 5/11/16, effective 6/15/16]  
[Filed ARC 3587C (Notice ARC 3368C, IAB 10/11/17), IAB 1/17/18, effective 2/21/18]  
[Filed ARC 5600C (Notice ARC 5370C, IAB 12/30/20), IAB 5/5/21, effective 6/9/21]

<sup>◊</sup> Two or more ARCs