

**481—652.1(147,148) Definitions.**

“*ABMS*” means the American Board of Medical Specialties.

“*ACGME*” means the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

“*AMA*” means the American Medical Association.

“*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.

“*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 health and human services or a training program offered by a hospital, a professional organization for physicians, 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 the board of medicine.

“*Board-approved resident training program*” means a hospital-affiliated graduate medical education program accredited by ACGME, AOA, RCPSC, 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 that 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. 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.

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

“*COMLEX*” means the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination.

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

“*COMVEX-USA*” means the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable-Purpose Examination for the United States of America.

“*Core credentials*” means those documents that demonstrate the applicant’s identity, medical training and practice history.

“*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.

“*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.

“*FLEX*” means the Federation Licensing Examination.

“*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.

“*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.

“*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.

*"LMCC"* means enrollment in the Canadian Medical Register as Licentiate of Medical Council of Canada with a certificate of registration as proof.

*"MCCEE"* means the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination.

*"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.

*"NBOME"* means the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

*"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 subrule 652.2(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.

*"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.

*"Reactivation"* 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 reactivate 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 online and is in addition to the actual fee for a service itself.

*“SPEX”* means Special Licensure Examination prepared by the Federation of State Medical Boards and administered by a licensing authority in any jurisdiction.

*“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.

*“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.

*“USMLE”* means the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

[ARC 9112C, IAB 4/16/25, effective 5/21/25; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/11/25]