



# MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe medical care.

## Licensing Program

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Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Department of Consumer Affairs

December 1, 2021

Effective January 1, 2022, Senate Bill 806 makes the following changes to licensure and renewal requirements for both Postgraduate Training License (PTL) and Physician's and Surgeon's (P&S) License Applicants and Licensees:

- Specifies a PTL holder may sign forms a physician and surgeon is authorized to sign.
- Authorizes the Board to grant a P&S license to a PTL holder after having received credit for 12 months (U.S. or Canadian medical school graduates) or 24 months (international medical school graduates) of Postgraduate Training (PGT). The Board shall accept the credit for completing PGT based upon the attestation of their program director or another designated person.
- Increases PTL and P&S application, licensure and renewal fees.
- To maintain a P&S license, the licensee must demonstrate that they received 36 months of PGT credit at the time of their first renewal, including 24 months in the same program.
  - Failure to do so within 60 days of the date of their license expiring shall cause their license to be placed on delinquent status.
  - Grants the Board flexibility to renew the P&S license if the licensee has demonstrated "substantial compliance" with this section.
- Authorizes the Board to issue a PTL for up to 15 months (for U.S. or Canadian medical school graduates) or 27 months (for international medical school graduates) for PTLs issued on or after January 1, 2022.
  - Authorizes the Board to extend a PTL beyond 15 or 27 months to allow the licensee to receive credit for the 12 or 24 months of PGT required for a P&S license, upon review of supporting documentation.

All applications will be reviewed to determine compliance with current statutes and regulations. If a resident does not have credit for at least 36 months of PGT by December 31, 2021, but will have credit for at least 12 months (for U.S. or Canadian medical school graduates) or 24 months (for international medical schools graduates) on January 1, 2022, the Board will keep the application open and re-evaluate eligibility for licensure after January 1, 2022, to determine compliance under the new law. A P&S license applicant that will qualify

for licensure on January 1, 2022, may submit their license application prior to January 1, 2022, and specify in the application that they are requesting the Board to hold their application until January 1, 2022. The Board will continue with the review of the application to allow the applicant to remediate any other deficiencies and will evaluate the postgraduate training after January 1, 2022.

P&S license applicants must still meet the same examination requirements: passed all steps of the USMLE or other acceptable examination pursuant to Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations section 1328. The law does not authorize the Board to extend a PTL beyond 15 months or 27 months in order to allow the licensee to pass the required exam for a P&S license.

SB 806 did not change the requirements for obtaining a PTL. Residents must still be issued a PTL within 180 days from enrollment in a California ACGME-accredited program. While SB 806 does not impact eligibility for a PTL, it may impact a PTL expiration date, once issued. Up until December 31, 2021, PTLs may be issued up to 39 months. PTLs issued prior to January 1, 2022, will maintain their original expiration date, even if it extends beyond 15 months or 27 months, as long as the PTL holder maintains enrollment in a California ACGME-accredited program.

SB 806 authorizes the Board to issue a PTL for an additional 90 days after completion of 12 months (U.S. or Canadian medical school graduates) or 24 months (international medical school graduates) of board-approved postgraduate training. Starting January 1, 2022, for residents who have not completed any board-approved postgraduate training, the Board will issue all PTLs for either 15 months or 27 months, depending on whether the applicant graduated and received their medical degree from a U.S. or Canadian medical school or an international medical school, regardless of the program end date indicated on the Enrollment Form submitted by the training program. For example, if the Board receives an Enrollment Form that shows a program start date of July 1, 2022, and an anticipated end date of June 30, 2023, for a PTL applicant that graduated from a U.S. medical school, then the Board will issue the PTL for a 15-month period. However, the program start and end dates reflected on the Enrollment Form will display on the PTL pocket license and on the Board's public license lookup, as a PTL is only valid in connection with the licensee's duties as an intern or resident physician in a board-approved program, including its affiliated sites, or under those conditions approved in writing and maintained in the postgraduate licensee's file by the director of the program. If a PTL holder transfers to another program before their PTL expires, they must submit a Program Status Update/Change form from their old program AND an Enrollment Form from their new program reflecting the new training dates so the Board may update this information on the license and ensure there is no unlicensed activity. A PTL applicant that will be enrolled in two different programs in their first and second years of residency may submit the Enrollment Form for both programs at the time of application. The Board will then be able to update the PTL holder's program information at the appropriate time.

For any PTL applicants that have already completed some Board-approved postgraduate training, the Board will issue the PTL up to 90 days after completion of 12 months (U.S. or Canadian medical school graduates) or 24 months (international medical school graduates) of board-approved postgraduate training.

As a reminder, a postgraduate training program is required to notify the Board on the Program Status Update/Change form within 30 days of any of the following actions:

- A PTL holder's postgraduate training period is extended;
- A PTL holder takes a leave of absence and their postgraduate training period is extended;
- A PTL holder's is terminated from the program;
- A PTL holder resigns, dies, or leaves the program;
- A PTL holder completes a one-year contract approved by the program.

For your reference only, please find attached copies of the letters Board staff are sending to current PTL and P&S license applicants.

The Board will soon be posting a new web page, providing an overview of the changes resulting from SB 806, as well as updating the other relevant sections of its website and application forms to reflect the new requirements.