

Career Planning for IMGs: How can we help

Many IMGs stay in the US after training.

- Pinsky, W. The Importance of International Medical Graduates in the United States. *Ann Intern Med*. 2017;166(11):840-841.
 - IMGs: Make up approximately 25% of the physician workforce.
 - Vital part of primary care and subspecialty care in rural/underserved areas.
 - Patient outcomes are at least equivalent, if not better, for persons treated by IMGs.
 - Physician concordance based on ethnicity, language, and demographic variables improves access to care for underserved minorities supporting a more diverse provider workforce.

J-1 Waiver Program (Conrad 30)

- The J-1 medical doctor must:
- Agree to be employed full-time in H-1B nonimmigrant status at a health care facility located in an area designated by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or Medically Underserved Population (MUP).
- Obtain a contract from the health care facility located in an area designated by HHS as a HPSA, MUA, or MUP
- Obtain a “no objection” letter from his or her home country if the home government funded his or her exchange program
- Agree to begin employment at the health care facility within 90 days of receipt of the waiver, not the date his or her J-1 visa expires

J-1 Waiver Program

- The Conrad 30 Waiver program allows J-1 medical doctors to apply for a waiver for the 2-year residence requirement upon completion of the J-1 exchange visitor program. See section 214(l) of the Immigration Nationality Act (INA). The program addresses the shortage of qualified doctors in medically underserved areas.
- If USCIS grants the waiver, the J-1 medical doctor must practice medicine for at least three years in an area designated by HHS as a HPSA, MUA, or MUP.
- Once the Conrad 30 waiver recipient has fulfilled all of the terms and conditions imposed on the waiver, including the 3-year period of employment with the health care facility, he or she (and his or her spouse and/or child) will become eligible to apply for An immigrant visa, Permanent residence, or H or L nonimmigrant visa
- **Background on J-1 medical status**
- A J-1 exchange visitor who came to the United States or acquired such status in order to receive graduate medical education or training (a J-1 medical doctor) is generally ineligible to apply for:
 - An immigrant visa
 - Permanent residence
 - H or L nonimmigrant status
- To be eligible to do so, a J-1 exchange visitor must have resided and been physically present in his or her country of nationality or last residence for at least 2 years (the 2-year foreign residence requirement) upon completion of the J-1 exchange visitor program. Any spouse or child admitted as an accompanying J-2 status holder is also subject to the 2-year foreign residence requirement. See section 212(e) of the INA.
- A J-1 medical doctor (and his or her J-2 spouse and/or child) is ineligible to change from J nonimmigrant status to any other nonimmigrant status (except in certain cases to A, G, T, or U). See section 248(a)(2) of the INA

J-1 Waiver Program

- Requirements:
- Have an offer of full-time employment at a health care facility in a designated health care professional shortage area or at a health care facility which serves patients from such a designated area;
- Agree to begin employment at that facility within 90 days of receiving a waiver; and
- Sign a contract to continue working at that health care facility for a total of 40 hours per week and for not less than three years.

J-1 Waiver

- Application through the Department of State.
- Online Application: a case number is generated and an application, DS-2019 copies, and fee (\$120) submitted.
- Processing time (per application website) 4-6 weeks.

Health Care Facility Requirements

- Provide evidence that efforts to recruit an American physician have failed (i.e. copies of advertisements for vacant positions);
- Document that a minimum of 30% of the applicant physician's patients reside in an area designated by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of health care professionals;
- Provide a description of why the physician's services are required and how the applicant physician's work will benefit the indigent and medically underserved;
- Provide letters of community support from at least three (3) community agencies stating that the J-1 placement is critical and will help alleviate health care access problems for the underserved population of the community.

CT process for submitting a waiver application

NEW - Application Submission Procedure, Effective August 8, 2017

The Department of Public Health will only accept application material that is hand delivered. All hand delivered applications will only be accepted in the first floor lobby area at the Connecticut Department of Public Health beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 2, 2017. The Department's address is as follows:

Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06134

Please do not enter the building at any other entrance other than the first floor lobby area entrance from Capitol Avenue. The first floor lobby area off of Capitol Avenue is open to the public at 7:00 a.m.

There will be a DPH staff person with a numbered sign in sheet in the first floor lobby area. Individuals delivering applications will be requested to enter their information onto the sign in sheet and will be handed a corresponding card with the number assigned. Department staff will meet with individuals in the order that the individual signed in. Please note that it is possible that an individual may be dropping off multiple applications. As a result, an individual may be signed in within the first 30 but the applications the individual is delivering may not be within the first 30 received.

When Department staff meet with an individual and receive an application(s), Department staff will assign a number to the application(s) being delivered in the order that it is received. Applications will not be reviewed for completeness at the time the application is hand delivered.

The Department will review the applications in the order that they are received. If an applicant is not licensed or an application is incomplete at the time of the Department's review, the application will be skipped and the next application will be reviewed. Once 30 complete applications have been identified in the order received, those 30 will be referred to the United States Department of State recommending a waiver of the two year home residency requirement.

Applications received by U.S. Mail, Federal Express, United Parcel Service or other similar service or received in any fashion other than as specified above will not be accepted or considered and will be returned to sender.

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Physician Neurology	4/10/2018 Sequim, Washington	VIEW DETAILS
Olympic Medical Center is seeking an excellent Neurologist to join a new clinic right off the scenic Puget Sound.		
Physician Neurology	4/9/2018 Tullahoma, Tennessee	VIEW DETAILS
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Physician Neurology	3/29/2018 Helena, Montana	VIEW DETAILS
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Physician Neurology	3/29/2018 Ames, Iowa	VIEW DETAILS
McFarland Clinic PC is seeking a Neurologist to join its group in Ames, Iowa. The Clinic offers a competitive compensation plan, attractive benefits, a high level of autonomy and an exceptionally co		
Physician Neurology	3/20/2018 Salem, Utah	VIEW DETAILS
BEVERLY HEALTH is seeking a BC/BE General Neurologist to practice in our Salem, UT office		

Resources

Resource Library

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Basics

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J1 Waiver
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How We Support J-1 Candidates: Education, ACP Partnership, Members

[KristineHost](#) posted on April 18, 2018 15:58

3RNet Information for J1 Candidates

Because J-1 physicians can provide care to underserved areas, 3RNet sees many J-1 physicians on our website, and we also try to provide answers for those interested in obtaining a waiver in order to receive H-1B eligibility.

J-1 visa status authorizes an International Medical Graduate (IMG) to do Graduate Medical Education (GME) in the United States. All J-1 clinical physicians – no exceptions – need to return for two years to their home countries following conclusion of GME.

Unless the two-year home residence obligation is waived, a J-1 physician is ineligible for an H-1B visa and/or permanent residence. Therefore, it is necessary to get a waiver of the two-year home residence obligation in order to get H-1B eligibility which, in turn, is the visa status that will enable an IMG to work as a physician in the United States.

States can sponsor waivers in order to get physicians into hard-to-fill placements where they will be serving the medically underserved. There has to be an element of expanding the safety net.

How we support J-1 physicians

J-1 Waiver Information and Contacts

On our website, 3RNet.org, we have an easy-to-use guide that provides basic information on the J-1 waiver

<http://R3net.org>

Future Discussion

- Physician workforce, healthcare disparities and access, and immigration are all complex and constantly changing.
- Immigration policies, for the most part, are not significantly limiting the entry of nonUS trained physicians for GME.
- Understanding the current policies for our nonUS IMG colleagues will help us to continue to recruit and train the best and brightest physicians into our training programs—both from the US and abroad.

Thank You



References

- Dill, MJ, "The State of the Physician Workforce" in Workforce presentations, AAMC publication 11/4/2017.
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- Norcini JJ vanZanten The contribution of international medical graduates to diversity in the U.S. physician workforce: graduate medical education. *J Health Care Poor Underserved* 2008; 19:493-9.
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