

License to practice medicine in Israel for overseas doctors with 14 years' seniority or more

Any person wishing to practice medicine in Israel must obtain a license to practice medicine from the Ministry of Health.

A doctor with an overseas diploma who has practiced clinical medicine for 14 years or more, is exempt from taking the written licensing examination, provided that he or she successfully passed an observation period of 6 months at a recognize institution, and then successfully pass the assessment of the committee for assessment of clinical capability (in accordance with the medical doctors' regulations (conditions for granting an examination waiver) (amended) 1992 – regulation 2(A) (3)).

In order to successfully pass the observation period, the candidate is required to **master the Hebrew language**.

The procedure for overseas doctors to obtain a license to practice medicine includes the following steps (detailed information appears below):

1. Submitting and application for observation, including the required documents
2. Finding a place for observation and receiving approval for the observation period
3. Observation, followed by the committee for assessment of clinical capability
4. Temporary permit to practice medicine, and a permanent license to practice medicine

1. Application for observation

The doctor should send application for observation at the Medical Professions Licensing Department at the Health Ministry, accompanied by the following documents:

- 2 passport copies
- 2 copies of ID card, including address slip and status in Israel (citizenship or residency)
If the status in Israel is not specified on the identity card, please send a copy of an Israeli passport or confirmation from the Interior Ministry on the status in Israel.
- 2 copies of the Questionnaire for professional workers in the health sector
- 2 copies of the completed application to take the examination in medicine
- Final diploma in medicine from an accredited university or alternatively, university's certificate of graduation, completion of all obligations and eligibility for a diploma in this profession to be granted on a certain date.
- A formal confirmation of the studies' start and end dates.
- An official confirmation on successful completion of internship, including details of the departments in which the internship had been carried out and duration of the internship in each department. Alternatively: official confirmation of work in clinical medicine.

- Syllabus of the program of study at schools of medicine: subjects studied, courses, examination grades – divided into years (preferably divided into semesters) during the six years of study, including starting and finishing dates.
- In the event of studies in more than one institution, the same documents must be presented for each institution separately. In addition, the courses taken must be presented in detail, and the requirements for completion of the courses from the previous institution.
- A foreign work permit.
- Official work permits (for at least 14 employment years) from the appropriate institutions specifying start and end dates of the employment in each institute (or alternatively work booklet).
- A foreign expert certificate (when applicable)
- Professional integrity certificate by the competent authorities of the country from the applicant's origin country, confirming that there were no disciplinary, malpractice or medical ethics complaints against the applicant.

Translation and authentication of certificates and documents

- Do not send the Medical Professions Licensing Department any original documents. **Please send copies only.**
- **Copies must be certified as true copies of the originals by a licensed notary in Israel. Please send the department the original notary certificate (with the red ribbon) and an additional copy (two copies in total).**
- Documents that are not written in Hebrew or Arabic must be translated by a certified translator in Israel. Please submit a copy of the original document and its translation.

The application must be submitted to the Medical Professions Licensing Department at the Ministry of Health, as specified in "Service Details" below.

The Medical Professions Licensing Department will review applicant eligibility and issue an **Observation Permit** for those eligible.

2. Finding a place for observation

After receiving an **Observation Permit** from the Medical Professions Licensing Department, the physician will find a clinic or hospital department which are authorized for observation. The applicant should receive from the clinic/department a written permission to perform six months of observation.

It should be emphasized that the physician himself, or herself, must arrange their observation with the head of the department / clinic. The Medical Professions Licensing Department at the Ministry of Health does not arrange places for physicians for observation.

Where can you make the observation?

You can complete the 6-month observation as a single unit in the field of primary care in hospital, in general emergency room, internal medicine department or paediatrics.

Physicians who wish to do so may divide the observation period into two parts:

- Completion of 3 months in the medical area in which the physician has prior knowledge and experience. This observation period will be carried out in a hospital or a community clinic.
- Completion of 3 months in primary care that will be carried out in hospitals or in community clinic. This period can include observation in general emergency room, internal medicine department or paediatrics.

Physicians who had been engaged with a specialist medical profession abroad and not in primary care, and who indicate that they wish to start their observation in this profession - will be allowed to start the observation in a department for this speciality, and will spend three months in this department. Then they will be directed to complete the observation in primary care.

Physician who divides their observation period will be requested to bring at the end of the observation two professional reviews, i.e., a review of each department / clinic where they worked.

3. Observation followed by the committee for assessment of clinical capability for immigrant physicians

Receiving observation permit from the Medical Professions Licensing Department

In order to receive an observation permit the applicant must present to the Medical Professions Licensing Department the following documents:

- Certification of Ulpan completion
- A copy of immigration certificate ("Oleh" certificate) , including its appendix.
- An appendix for immigrant eligible for observation
- Confirmation from the head of department on receiving the physician for observation as mentioned above.
- Appendix attached to the observation permit, including personal information and information about the institution and the medical field in which the applicant wishes to perform the observation.

After receiving the documents, and if the observation department /clinic is approved by the Medical Professions Licensing Department, **the physician will be issued with an exemption from state licensing written test** in order to allow to him or her to work as a doctor during the observation period in the approved institution. Approval is based on the authority of the Director of the Medical Professions Licensing Department under Section 59 (a) of the Doctors Regulations (New Version), 1976.

Prohibited activities for physicians during observation:

- Treating patients outside the hospital / clinic.
- Signing documents submitted to a public authority, the police and the courts or quasi-judicial authorities
- Signing hospital release documents.
- Performing shifts in hospitals.
- Signing prescriptions.

Performing the observation

After receiving approval from the Medical Professions Licensing Department the physician can start the **6 months observation** (as mentioned above).

To successfully complete the observation the physician must be **fluent in Hebrew**. **Eligibility is for one observation period only**. Physician that failed or did not fully complete the observation, **will not be able to repeat the observation**, even if the failure stems from the lack of knowledge in Hebrew.

Committee for assessment of clinical capability

Physician who successfully completed the observation will be referred to the **Committee for assessment of clinical capability** for immigrant physician. Physician who had not passed successfully the Committee for assessment of clinical capability will be summoned, within one year from the date of the first committee, to one additional evaluation only. Physician who failed both evaluations will not be entitled to receive a license to practice medicine, and will be referred to the state licensing exam.

It should be emphasized that the evaluations are carried out in Hebrew only and that the cases discussed by the Committee for assessment of clinical capability are concerning general medicine rather than specific specialties.

4. Obtaining a temporary permit and a permanent license to practice medicine

Temporary permit to practice medicine

Physician is entitled to receive a temporary permit to practice medicine in Israel, only after completing observation successfully and after receiving a positive evaluation of the Committee for assessment of clinical capability.

Physicians entitled to a temporary permit will receive a notice of eligibility for a temporary one year permit to practice medicine. The permit is contingent upon payment of the license fee.

License fees can be paid at the postal bank (payment voucher will be sent from the Medical Professions Licensing Department) or online

Permanent license

Overseas doctor that received a temporary permit, worked at least 12 consecutive months and received positive professional opinion from a specialist, as well as meeting the terms of the law and regulations, is entitled to receive a permanent license to practice medicine.

The doctor should apply for a permanent license at the Medical Professions Licensing Department and attach the original **temporary permit and the professional opinion**.

Eligible doctors who meet the terms of the law and regulations will receive a voucher for payment of permanent license fee.

License fees can be paid at the postal bank (payment voucher will be sent from the Medical Professions Licensing Department) or online.

After the payment the license will be sent by **registered mail** to the doctor.

Criminal record check

In order to grant the license, the Ministry of Health must receive certification from Israel Police that the applicant has no criminal record.

The Medical Professions Licensing Department in the Ministry of Health will apply to Israel Police for this certification. After it is received, the license will be issued to graduates who have satisfied all other legal requirements.

By law, the Ministry of Health may not request this certification directly from the applicant.

Service Details

Reception Area

The application must be sent by **registered mail** to the Medical Professions Licensing Department, Ministry of Health, 39 Yirmiyahu St., P.O.Box 1176, Jerusalem 9101002 Israel.

Documents for the department can be submitted at the ground floor of the office, at the security screening point. The documents must be in a sealed envelope. It is your responsibility to receive a confirmation of your document admission upon submission.

The information provided by candidates is used to contact them. If false information is provided, the submission will not be processed.

Required Documents

Questionnaire

Application to take an examination