

# License to practice medicine in Israel for physicians who completed the studies of medicine abroad and have practiced medicine

Physicians who are graduates of recognized schools of medicine abroad and practiced the profession abroad, or physicians who completed their studies and internship abroad but did not practice the profession, will be eligible for a license to practice medicine in Israel only after successfully completing the government licensing examinations in medicine.

## **USMLE examinations**

According to an amendment to the Medical Doctors' Regulations that was approved by the Knesset Labour, Welfare and Health Committee and published in the government gazette, a physician who successfully sits the USMLE examinations, in accordance with the rules detailed below, will be entitled to a waiver of the government licensing examination in medicine:

**The procedure for obtaining a license to practice medicine in Israel includes the following stages** (detailed information appears below):

1. Submitting an application for the licensing examination
2. Examination, or exemption based on USMLE examination
3. Receipt of a temporary permit
4. Receipt of a permanent license

## **1. Submitting an application for the licensing examination**

The request must be sent, along with the required documents, **by registered mail** to the Medical Professions Licensing Department, Ministry of Health, as detail at "Service Details" below.

**The application for examination may be submitted no less than 60 days prior to the examination.**

**Contact details provided by candidates are the basis for contacting them. Provision of erroneous information will not enable processing of the application.**

## **2. The examination**

The examination is held twice a year (winter examination and summer examination).

After assessment of the documents by the Medical Professions Licensing Department, the physician will be sent to undergo the government medical licensing examination. The application form for the examination will be forwarded to the

scientific council of the Israel Medical Union for registration of the physician and scheduling him for an examination.

The physician will receive information concerning the date of the examination, its location and results directly from the examination committee at the scientific council of the Israel Medical Association, 35 Jabotinsky St., Ramat Gan, tel. 03-6100444.

## **Waiver of the Government Licensing Examination in Medicine**

### **USMLE examinations**

According to an amendment to the Medical Doctors' Regulations that was approved by the Knesset Labour, Welfare and Health Committee and published in the government gazette, a physician who successfully sits the USMLE examinations, in accordance with the rules detailed below, will be entitled to a waiver of the government licensing examination in medicine:

- A holder of a recognized degree from overseas who has undertaken a recognized internship overseas
- If the USMLE examinations has been taken successfully - stage 1, both steps of stage 2 and stage 3: (USMLE step 1; USMLE step 2ck; USMLE step 2cs; USMLE step 3) then there is exemption from the government licensing examination in medicine and will be eligible for a license to practice medicine in Israel.

All this is subject to meeting the remaining conditions of the Medical Doctors' Ordinance and Regulations.

## **3. Temporary permit**

Those who successfully undertake the government licensing examination will receive notification of eligibility for a temporary permit to practice medicine for one year. Receipt of the license is conditional upon payment of the licensing fee .

Payment can be made at the Postal Bank (a payment slip will be sent by the Medical Professions Licensing Department)

Payment may also be made via the website.

## **4. Permanent license**

A physician who graduated abroad and who has received a temporary permit, has worked for a minimum of 12 consecutive months and who has received favourable professional reviews from a specialist physician, and who has successfully met the legal and regulatory requirements, is eligible for a permanent license.

The physician must submit the application for a permanent license to the Medical

Professions Licensing Department and must attach the original temporary permit and the professional review.

Those eligible will be mailed a permanent license fee payment. Payment can be made at the Postal Bank (a payment slip will be sent by the Medical Professions Licensing Department)

Payment may also be made via the website

After payment of the fee, the license will be sent to the physician by registered mail.

### **For your information – Determining Specialization**

Physicians who are graduates of university abroad and who submit an application for a license to practice medicine in Israel who also hold a certificate of specialization from abroad are **also entitled**, in addition to their application to the Ministry of Health, to also apply to the scientific council of the Israel Medical Union for recognition of their specialization, where all the conditions for their eligibility for a specialist title will be assessed.

### **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 Department 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 request 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

- 2 copies of the Questionnaire for health care professionals.
- 2 passport photographs.
- 2 photocopies of your identification card, including the attachment showing your address.  
**Tourists:** Photocopy of your passport with a valid Israeli visa.
- 2 copies of the application for examination.
- Final degree from a recognized university, or alternatively confirmation from the university that you have completed your studies and have fulfilled all obligations to the university and are eligible for a degree in medicine, which will be awarded at a certain time.
- Official confirmation of the start and end date of your studies.
- 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.
- An official certificate of successful completion of internship, including details of the wards in which the internship was performed and the duration of stay on each and every ward. Alternatively: an official certificate of at least one year of work in clinical medicine.
- A foreign license to practice.
- Official confirmations of having worked, from the relevant institutions, stating the start and end date of the employment at each of the institutions (or alternatively – an employment record book).
- A specialist certificate from abroad (in relevant cases)
- A professional Certificate of Good Standing from the authority authorized to issue this in the country from which the applicant immigrated to Israel, certifying that there are not and were not any disciplinary, negligence or professional ethics complaints against the physician.

## Translation and validation of documents and certificates

- Original certificates must not be sent to the Medical Professions Licensing Department. Instead, **only copies must be sent.**
- **Certified copies of documents should be certified by a licensed notary in Israel. The original notarized certification (with the red ribbon) should be sent to the Division, as well as an additional copy of it (a total of two copies).**

- Documents in languages other than Hebrew and Arabic must be translated into Hebrew by a qualified translator in Israel. A copy of the original document and its translation must be submitted.