Licensure

Subject to the exceptions noted below, throughout the certification and maintenance of certification processes, and in order to maintain a valid certificate and ABPN Diplomate status, physicians must, at all times, hold an active, full, and unrestricted allopathic and/or osteopathic license to practice medicine in at least one state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States or province of Canada in which they practice medicine, either in-person or remotely. If licenses are or have been held in more than one jurisdiction, all licenses held by the physician in jurisdictions in which the physician practices medicine, either in-person or remotely, must be full and unrestricted to meet this requirement. A physician who is in possession or was in possession of a restricted medical license pursuant to these policies in jurisdictions in which the physician practices medicine or practiced medicine at the time the restriction was imposed, either in-person or remotely, does not meet this requirement. An active, full, and unrestricted medical license must be maintained even if a physician is out of the country for extended periods of time.

An unrestricted medical license is a license to practice medicine that has been issued by an appropriate and authorized licensing board and contains no restrictions, conditions, or contingencies on the physician’s privilege to practice professionally and does not have any added requirements to remain full and active. Restrictions include but are not limited to any revocation, suspension, limitation or prohibition against attaining any medical license and/or any licensing board disciplinary action or investigation that results in a revocation, cancellation, suspension, condition, obligation, requirement, probation, forfeiture, surrender, failure to renew, prohibition against applying or renewing, lapse, inactive status or contingency imposed upon a license or in any way relevant to the physician’s privilege to practice professionally, including against any Drug Enforcement Administration license or privilege, regardless of whether the restriction was imposed by an adjudicated order, agreed order, non-contested order, consent order, agreement, stipulation, settlement, or plea agreement. Restrictions may include any incarceration as a result of any criminal charges, indictments and/or convictions.

A diplomate who is in possession of a restricted medical license pursuant to these policies in jurisdictions in which the physician practices medicine or practiced medicine at the time the restriction was imposed, either in-person or remotely, whether the Board knows of the restriction or not, no longer meets the Board’s licensure requirements and shall, without any action necessary by the Board or any right to a hearing, automatically lose his or her diplomate status in all specialties and subspecialties for which the individual has received a certificate from the Board, and all such certificates shall be invalid.
A physician in possession of any restricted medical license in jurisdictions in which the physician practices medicine or practiced medicine at the time the restriction was imposed, either in-person or remotely, even if the physician also possesses an unrestricted license in a different jurisdiction, will not be scheduled for examination, be issued a certificate, be authorized to be in possession of a certificate, or be allowed to represent himself or herself as an ABPN-certified physician.

It is the obligation of the candidate/diplomate to inform the Board immediately upon any change in licensure status.