



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Health Commissioner

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Commissioner*

June 22, 2025

Gotham Center
42-09 28th St.
Long Island City, NY
11101

Submitted via email to: regsqna@health.ny.gov

**Re: 12-Week Rule for Foreign Medical Graduates and Limited Permit Allowances
I.D. No. HLT-16-00002-P**

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“the NYC Health Department”) submits the following comment in response to the New York State Department of Health’s (NYSDOH) proposed rule to expand the “12-week” exception related to graduate medical education occurring outside of the United States and to remove certain post-graduate training requirements for limited permit holders.

The NYC Health Department supports NYSDOH’s efforts to alleviate the effects of a national physician shortage by removing arcane requirements imposed on international medical graduates and limited permit holders seeking post-graduate training and employment in New York State (NYS). The State has long contended with a growing gap between supply of physicians and demand for services. This gap is expected to continue to grow as demand outpaces the increase in new medical graduates in coming years. The stark reality of this gap came into sharp focus during the COVID-19 pandemic as an already beleaguered workforce faced outsized demand for services.

The State has considered responding to these challenges by proposing changes to scope-of-practice guidelines for certain professions and exploring ways to tap into out-of-state resources through interstate licensure compacts. While those measures have not been enacted, we commend the State for now pursuing another underutilized resource in loosening restrictions around internationally trained providers.

Currently, international medical graduates who have completed a clinical clerkship lasting more than 12 weeks in a country other than the country where their medical school was located may only participate in post-graduate training at a New York hospital if the clerkship occurred at one of 17 international medical schools approved by the New York State Education Department (SED). Under the proposed rule, NYSDOH aims to expand eligibility for this “12-week rule” by permitting international medical graduates who did not complete a clerkship at one of the 17 schools, but who

subsequently completed a post-graduate training program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association, to participate in post-graduate training at a New York teaching hospital.

The proposed rule further amends NYS Department of Health regulations by eliminating additional years of post-graduate training required of limited permit holders seeking employment at New York hospitals. Currently, limited permit holders with domestic degrees must complete an additional year of post-graduate training before working in a hospital. This requirement is extended to three years for international medical graduates. NYSDOH acknowledges that SED already screens prospective limited permit holders for adequate training before issuing such permits, and that these additional training requirements for hospitals are not imposed across other practice settings. As such, NYSDOH proposes to eliminate the requirement in circumstances where the limited permit holder seeks direct employment at a public hospital and maintains the required supervision arrangement.


Together, these provisions open a pathway for more internationally trained providers to seek employment at public hospitals and to attract new talent to the State. This is especially significant for New York City, where all five counties are Regents-Designated Physician Shortage Areas (per SED) and Health Professional Shortage Areas (per the federal Health Resources and Services Administration), and where many communities already have limited access to care. As the city's population grows older and more diverse, it is critical that we have an increasingly diverse workforce that can meet the expanding needs of its patients.

The NYC Health Department applauds NYSDOH for taking steps to expand the provider workforce and encourages NYSDOH to consider additional measures that would further this impact, such as expanding the types of practice settings where limited permit holders can work (e.g., federally qualified health centers) and creating a streamlined pathway to full, unsupervised licensure for international medical graduates. These efforts would significantly widen the pool of qualified physicians in New York and mirror efforts being taken by other states.

We thank NYS Department of Health for this opportunity to comment and look forward to continuing our work together to improve the health of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Assistant Commissioner.

, MD, PHD
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Equitable Health Systems
Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness