COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

POLICY 2024-03

EXPEDITED PROCESSING OF CHANGE OF PROGRAM REQUESTS

ARISING FROM THE CLOSURE OR DISCONTINUANCE OF A

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Issued June 13, 2024

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 9, the Board of Registration in Medicine (“Board”) issues limited licenses to interns, residents and fellows who have been appointed to a Board approved graduate medical program at a specific facility. With limited exceptions, the physicians who hold such licenses may only practice at the facility designated or the license or at the facility’s approved affiliates for the specific program. 243 CMR 2.02(8)(a). The Board will not issue more than one limited license to a physician at one time. 243 CMR 2.02(8)(a).

The Board recognizes a facility may discontinue or close a graduate medical program due to closure of the facility itself or a reduction in services and programs offered at the facility. The Board recognizes that such closure or discontinuance results in the displacement of limited licensees, who no longer meet the requirement of appointment at a Board approved program, but through no fault or action on their part. The Board further recognizes these licensees may receive appointments at a graduate medical program at another facility (“Receiving Program”) willing to take the limited licensees that have been displaced by the closed or discontinued program (“Closing Program”).

Therefore, in order to minimize the impact on such limited licensees and reduce the time that such discontinuance or closure may have on the limited licensees ability to practice and pursue training, the Board authorizes its staff to expedite processing of change of program requests submitted by a Receiving Program that meet the following criteria:

1. The request is in writing and includes the following information:
   1. The Receiving Program’s ACGME Program Name, Program accreditation status and number, or, in cases of a subspecialty program, the ACGME, AOA or accredited Canadian post graduate training program parent specialty;
   2. Confirmation by the Receiving Program of sponsorship of a physician who had previously held a limited license and appointment at a Closing Program (displaced licensee) along with the Start and End Dates at the Receiving Program;
   3. The full name (first, last and middle initial) of the displaced licensee;
   4. The license number corresponding to the limited license previously issued by the Board to the displaced licensee to practice at the Closing Program; and
   5. The Closing Program’s ACGME Program Name.
2. Board staff are able to verify that
   1. The displaced licensee holds, or held up until such time of the Closing Program’s closure or discontinuation, a limited license issued by the Board to practice at the Closing Program; and
   2. The Closing Program has closed or been discontinued, or will close or be discontinued, effective on a date prior to the expiration of the displaced licensee’s limited license at the Closing Program.

For change of program requests that meet the above criteria, the Board specifically authorizes its staff to amend the existing displaced licensee’s limited license to designate practice at the Receiving Program and to extend the expiration date of such license for up to 3 months as necessary to accommodate the Receiving Program end date.