

Overview of IMLC & FCVS processes



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Introduction

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) and the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) are two key processes designed to streamline medical licensing and credential verification for physicians in the United States. Understanding these processes can help medical professionals expedite their licensing and credentialing requirements across multiple states.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

What is the IMLC?

The IMLC is an agreement among participating U.S. states that allows eligible physicians to obtain expedited medical licenses in multiple states through a simplified application process.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for licensure through the IMLC, physicians must:

- Hold a full, unrestricted medical license in a Compact-participating state (State of Principal License – SPL)
- Have graduated from an accredited medical school
- Have passed the USMLE, COMLEX-USA, or equivalent exam
- Hold board certification or be eligible for certification
- Have no disciplinary actions, criminal history, or malpractice claims that disqualify them

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Process for Obtaining a License Through the IMLC

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1. **Application Submission:** Physicians apply through their SPL.
2. **Eligibility Verification:** The SPL verifies credentials and eligibility.
3. **Letter of Qualification Issuance:** Once approved, the physician receives a Letter of Qualification.
4. **Multi-State Licensing:** The physician selects additional IMLC states for licensure and pays applicable fees.
5. **Licenses Issued:** The selected states grant individual licenses without redundant verification.

Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS)

What is the FCVS?

The FCVS is a centralized service provided by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) that collects, verifies, and stores physician credentials. It provides a standard verified credentials portfolio that can be sent to medical boards, hospitals, and employers.

What FCVS Verifies

- Medical education and degree verification
- Postgraduate training (residency/fellowship) verification
- Examination history (USMLE, COMLEX-USA, NBME, etc.)

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What FCVS Verifies

- Board certification status
- Identity verification (birth certificate, passport, etc.)

Process for Using FCVS

1. **Create an Account:** Physicians register with the FCVS through the FSMB website.
2. **Submit Documents:** Required documents such as transcripts, diplomas, and ID proofs are uploaded.
3. **FCVS Primary Source Verification:** FCVS contacts relevant institutions to verify credentials.
4. **Portfolio Creation:** A verified credentials portfolio is compiled.
5. **Distribution:** Physicians request FCVS to send their portfolio to state medical boards or employers.

Benefits of FCVS

- One-time primary source verification for life
- Reduces duplicate document requests for licensing in multiple states
- Recognized by most U.S. state medical boards

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Comparison of IMLC & FCVS

Feature	IMLC	FCVS
Purpose	Expedites multi-state licensing	Centralized credential verification
Eligibility	Requires SPL and board certification	Open to all physicians
Process	State-based expedited licensing	Verification for all credentials
Benefits	Faster state licensure	Reduces document redundancy
Recognition	Limited to IMLC states	Accepted by most state boards

Conclusion

Both the IMLC and FCVS play crucial roles in simplifying physician licensure and credential verification. The IMLC provides an expedited path for multi-state licensing, while the FCVS offers a standardized, verified credentials portfolio for life-long use. Physicians should evaluate their needs and state requirements to determine which service best suits their professional goals.

For more details, visit:

- IMLC: www.imlcc.org
- FCVS: www.fsmb.org/fcvs