

Overview of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)



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Introduction

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national nonprofit organization that supports state medical boards in their role of protecting public health and ensuring the safe and competent practice of medicine. FSMB provides services and initiatives that promote medical regulation, physician licensure, and public safety.

Mission and Purpose

FSMB's primary mission is to advance public health, safety, and welfare through leadership, education, and innovation in medical regulation. It collaborates with state medical boards to standardize and improve the processes involved in medical licensure and discipline.

Key Functions of FSMB

1. Licensure and Credentialing Support

- Assists state medical boards in licensing physicians by maintaining the Uniform Application for Medical Licensure and the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS).

2. Disciplinary Actions and Regulation

- Maintains a comprehensive database of disciplinary actions taken by state medical boards.
- Provides guidance on professional misconduct and best practices for disciplinary procedures.

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3. Policy Development and Advocacy

- Develops model policies and guidelines to support medical boards in regulating healthcare professionals.
- Engages with federal and state agencies on issues related to medical regulation.

4. Education and Research

- Offers continuing education programs and resources for medical regulators and professionals.
- Conducts research on medical regulation, workforce trends, and physician competency.

FSMB Services and Programs

- **United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE):** Collaborates with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to oversee the USMLE, a key requirement for medical licensure.
- **Physician Data Center (PDC):** A centralized database that provides information on physician licensure and disciplinary history.
- **Telemedicine Initiatives:** Works on policies and guidelines to facilitate telehealth and cross-state medical practice.
- **Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Policies:** Develops guidelines to address opioid prescribing and physician education on substance use disorders.

Conclusion

The FSMB plays a crucial role in ensuring that medical regulation remains consistent and effective across the United States. By supporting state medical boards and advocating for policies that enhance public health, FSMB continues to uphold the integrity and quality of medical practice.