

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: November 12, 2020
ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California
SUBJECT: Update on Postgraduate Training License Program
STAFF CONTACT: Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs

REQUESTED ACTION:

This report is intended to provide an update on the Medical Board of California's (Board) postgraduate training license program and recent stakeholder feedback. Staff welcome Board member comments, but no action is needed.

Background:

To qualify for a physician and surgeon license, an individual must graduate from an approved medical school, pass all required parts of the United States Medical Licensing Examination, and complete 36 months of postgraduate training.

Beginning January 1, 2020, a resident of a Board-approved postgraduate training program must obtain from the Board a postgraduate training license (PTL) within 180 days of their enrollment in that program. Without obtaining a PTL, that resident will be unable to practice medicine within their program. In general, a PTL holder will have to apply for a physician and surgeon license after successfully completing 36 months of postgraduate training.

As of September 30, 2020, the Board this year has issued 3,828 PTLs to eligible individuals.

A PTL holder (as described in Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 2064.5) may engage in the practice of medicine only in connection with their duties as an intern or resident physician in their postgraduate training program (including its affiliated site), or under conditions that are approved in writing by the director of their program. Further, this section authorizes a PTL holder to practice medicine, including, but not limited to, as follows:

- Diagnose and treat patients;
- Prescribe medications without a cosigner, including controlled substances, if the training licensee has the appropriate Drug Enforcement Agency registration/permit and is registered with the Department of Justice CURES program; and
- Sign birth and death certificates without a cosigner.