



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION
INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

Title of Interpretive Statement: Establishing Approval Criteria for Defining Appropriate Medical Practices for IMG Nomination | INS2022-02

Issuing Entity: Washington Medical Commission

Subject Matter: Establishes the criteria to qualify as an appropriate medical practice to nominate an international medical graduate (IMG) for a limited license

Effective Date: March 4, 2022

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Title:	Establishing Approval Criteria for Defining Appropriate Medical Practices for IMG Nomination	INS2022-02
References:	RCW 18.71.095(6)	
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Approved By:	John Maldon, Chair (signature on file)	

The Washington Medical Commission (Commission) issues this interpretive statement establishing the criteria to determine whether a medical practice qualifies as “an appropriate medical practice” that can nominate an international medical graduate (IMG) for a limited license under RCW 18.71.095(6).

In 2021, the Legislature passed Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1129 creating a limited license to practice medicine for international medical graduates who meet certain requirements. SHB 1129 added a new subsection to RCW 18.71.095:

(6)(a) Upon nomination by the chief medical officer of any hospital, **appropriate medical practice located in the state of Washington**, the department of social and health services, the department of children, youth, and families, the department of corrections, or a county or city health department, the commission may issue a limited license to an international medical graduate....

Under subsection (6)(a), one of the entities that can nominate an international medical graduate for a limited license is an “appropriate medical practice located in the state of Washington.” Since the statute does not define the term “appropriate medical practice,” the Commission must establish qualification criteria.

An appropriate medical practice is a practice that meets the following criteria:

1. The practice is physically located in the state of Washington providing clinical care to Washington patients.
2. The practice falls within one of the following categories:
 - a. Is a practice setting within a federal system such as military, Indian health services, tribal health setting, or community health center; or

- b. Is a practice setting that:
 - i. Has three or more physicians (MD or DO) for the purposes of delivering direct patient care; and
 - ii. Has a quality review, improvement, and assurance program for practitioners.

Nominating entities must identify how they meet the qualification to nominate under RCW 18.71.095 (6)(a) in their letter supporting the application of the IMG candidate. If the Commission determines that a nominating entity meets the above criteria and qualifies as an appropriate medical practice, the Commission will review the application and the practice agreement to determine whether the applicant meets the qualifications in RCW 18.71.095(6) for a limited license.