

## Interstate Medical Licensure Compact UPDATE #1

At the April 2013 Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting in Boston, the House of Delegates unanimously passed *Resolution 13-5: Development of an Interstate Compact to Expedite Medical Licensure and Facilitate Multi-State Practice*, directing the FSMB to convene representatives from state medical boards and special experts to explore the formation of an Interstate Compact to enhance license portability. Following the Annual Meeting, FSMB staff worked in conjunction with the Council of State Governments (CSG) in preparation for the first *Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Planning Meeting*, which was hosted at the FSMB Texas Office on June 12-14, 2013.

Representing a diverse collection of states in terms of population, size, and geographic region, a group of state medical board representatives convened to discuss the feasibility of a medical licensure compact, and to sketch out its form and function. In developing the initial framework for an interstate compact, attendees discussed the compact development process and timeline, as well as expectations for how a compact may potentially be utilized by state medical boards to expedite licensing for qualified physicians seeking to practice in multiple jurisdictions.

Several fundamental, guiding principles must be respected, attendees agreed by consensus, during the development and implementation of an interstate medical licensure compact:

- **Protecting the public is the mission of state medical boards, and must not be compromised.**
- **State licensing and renewal fees must be protected so that state medical boards can fulfill their regulatory, investigative, and administrative duties.**
- **The primary purpose of an interstate medical licensure compact would be to streamline the licensure process for qualified physicians (MDs and DOs), and facilitate the multi-state practice of medicine (including telemedicine).**
- **A state's participation in an interstate medical licensure compact will be strictly voluntary.**
- **A state's participation in an interstate medical licensure compact will not require the modification of a state's Medical Practice Act.**
- **The practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located at the time of the physician-patient encounter.**
- **An interstate medical licensure compact will establish a mechanism whereby any physician practicing in the state will be known by, and under the jurisdiction of, the state medical board.**
- **Disciplinary authority or adjudicating authority will remain with state medical boards, and will not be delegated to a Commission that administers the Compact.**

In the coming months, state medical boards and other key stakeholders will continue to seek input and deliberate in order to reach consensus on the functionality of an interstate medical licensure compact, including physician eligibility requirements for participation in the compact, disciplinary action, and funding options for a self-sustaining compact.