



EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

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ECFMG® Launches Electronic Verification of Medical Credentials

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), a world expert on international medical schools and the credentials they issue, is pleased to announce the launch of an electronic process for verifying the medical education credentials of international physicians who seek entry into the U.S. health care system.

In January 2012, after more than a year of intensive development, a pilot of ECFMG's electronic Credentials Verification program was launched with participation from approximately 20 international medical schools. Participating institutions use Credentials Verification to electronically receive and verify the medical education credentials of their students and graduates who apply to ECFMG.

For more than 50 years, through its certification program, ECFMG has assessed whether international medical graduates are ready to enter U.S. graduate medical education programs. As part of this certification program, ECFMG requires international physicians to provide copies of their medical education credentials, specifically medical diplomas and transcripts. Since 1986, ECFMG has verified applicant credentials by mailing copies directly to the issuing institutions. This rigorous, primary-source verification process ensures the authenticity of the credentials of international physicians who provide patient care in the United States. To date, ECFMG has obtained primary-source verification for more than half a million medical credentials from thousands of schools and other institutions around the world.

The electronic Credentials Verification program represents a significant advance over the paper primary-source verification process, benefiting medical schools and their students/graduates while maintaining ECFMG's rigorous standards for primary-source verification. Credentials Verification, offered to international medical schools at no cost through the secure ECFMG Medical School Web Portal (EMSWP), eliminates the transit time and potential postal delays associated with mailing paper documents. Like the paper process, Credentials Verification

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includes security measures to ensure that only authorized medical school officials are able to verify credentials. ECFMG's President and Chief Executive Officer, Emmanuel G. Cassimatis, M.D., comments, "ECFMG's role in verifying the medical education credentials of international physicians is critical to protecting the public. Electronic Credentials Verification revolutionizes the way we perform this vital function."

After completion of the pilot, ECFMG will invite additional medical schools to participate in electronic Credentials Verification. ECFMG also plans to use this innovative, web-based process in its other credentials verification services, such as the ECFMG International Credentials Services (EICS); and ECFMG's program that verifies credentials for the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. (FSMB). Electronic Credentials Verification will also be a critical component of ECFMG's Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPICSM), which is expected to launch in 2012. EPIC is a web-based repository of credentials that will make ECFMG's primary-source verification expertise accessible to individual physicians and to the organizations worldwide charged with evaluating the qualifications of these physicians.

About ECFMG

Established in 1956, ECFMG is a private, nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with more than 800 full- and part-time employees.

ECFMG is a world leader in promoting quality health care—serving physicians, members of the medical education and regulatory communities, health care consumers, and those researching issues in medical education and health workforce planning. ECFMG's program of certification evaluates whether international medical graduates (IMGs) are ready to enter U.S. programs of graduate medical education, where they provide supervised patient care. ECFMG offers a variety of other programs for IMGs and the entities worldwide that educate, train, register/license, and employ them.

ECFMG's organizational members are the American Board of Medical Specialties; American Medical Association; Association of American Medical Colleges; Association for Hospital Medical Education; FSMB; and the National Medical Association.

For more information, visit the ECFMG website at www.ecfmg.org.

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