



Information Sheet for Initial Intealth-Sponsored J-1 Exchange Visitor Physicians



PLEASE PRINT AND
RETAIN FOR YOUR
RECORDS

Basic J-1 Principles for Physicians

- The J-1 is a temporary, non-immigrant visa classification reserved for educational training and cross cultural purposes.
- The J-1 non-immigrant visa category is administered and overseen by the U.S. Department of State (DoS), Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
- Approval of a J-1/J-2 visa depends, in part, on the applicant's ability to prove strong ties to the home country and a clear intent to return home upon completion or early withdrawal, as mandated by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended, §214(b).
- All J-1 physicians sponsored by Intealth for clinical graduate medical education (GME) are subject to the two-year home physical presence requirement of §212(e) of the INA, as amended.
- Full-time participation in the approved training program, among other things, is required to maintain J-1 status.
- A spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 who accompany a physician holding J-1 status are referred to as J-2 dependents.
- All J-1 physicians and accompanying J-2 dependents are responsible to comply with all U.S. laws and regulations pertaining to foreign nationals.

Processing Form DS-2019 for J-1 Status

The Form DS-2019 must be processed and J-1 status acquired through one of the two options identified below before you are eligible to begin training.

- **Option A:** If you are outside the United States, apply for your J visa and schedule your visa appointment/interview at a U.S. Consulate at www.ustraveldocs.com.
- **Option B:** If you are in the United States in a visa classification other than J-1, you may be eligible to apply for a change of status (CoS) to J-1 by filing Form I-539, *Application to Extend/Change Non-immigrant Status* with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (www.uscis.gov). To confirm your eligibility, Intealth recommends consulting directly with a USCIS representative or a qualified immigration attorney.

For either option, pay and print a receipt for the mandatory \$220 SEVIS fee at <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html#>. (A SEVIS fee is not required for J-2 visa applicants.)

Arrival to the United States in J-1 Status

VALIDATION OF INITIAL ARRIVAL

Upon arrival to the United States, you must make contact with your training institution's designated Training Program Liaison (TPL) as soon as possible. You will partner with the TPL to ensure the following required documents are uploaded to your online record:

- *Validation of Initial Arrival form* (<https://www.ecfm.org/evsp/arrival.pdf>)
- Copy of passport J-1 visa stamp as issued by a U.S. Consulate (does not apply to individuals approved for a change of status)
- Copy of Form I-94 reflecting "J-1, D/S" (or Form I-797, reflecting an approval for change of status by USCIS)

Upon receipt of all required documentation, EVSP will validate your arrival to the United States in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a U.S. government database. SEVIS validation is a requirement of the U.S. government; failure to validate in a timely manner can jeopardize your visa status.

PLEASE NOTE

As a J-1 physician, you are required to begin training within 30 days of arrival to the United States in J-1 status or CoS effective date. If you do not start training within 30 days your SEVIS record will be deactivated and you must depart the United States and reapply for J-1 sponsorship through Intealth. Application for a new J visa at a U.S. Consulate will also be required.

FORM I-94

Form I-94 arrival/departure record confirms your arrival to the United States. Make sure it states, "J-1, D/S." If there are any errors, contact Intealth. Download an electronic copy of Form I-94 from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) website at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>. A copy of Form I-94 must be submitted to Intealth as part of the SEVIS validation process and may be needed for other U.S.-based applications (i.e., driver's license).

Applying for a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN)

J-1 physicians are required to have a SSN issued by the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) (www.ssa.gov). SEVIS validation is required to apply for a U.S. SSN. **J-1 physicians should wait 11 business days after being validated in SEVIS before applying for an SSN. Applying too early may result in significant delays of SSN issuance.** On the Social Security Card application, at the question about “citizenship,” J-1 physicians should select “other.”



J-1 physicians can view the “Validated in SEVIS Date” on the Current Applications page in MyIntealth.

U.S. Address and Contact Reporting

J-1 physicians are required to maintain current and active contact information in MyIntealth at all times, including:

- U.S. residential address. A temporary address (e.g., a hotel address) may be entered and updated once a more permanent place of residence is secured. As a regulatory requirement, all subsequent address changes within the United States must be updated in MyIntealth within ten days of a U.S. residential move.
- An active email address.
- A U.S. telephone number.

Maintenance of J-1 Visa Status

In addition to meeting the academic standards required to progress through residency, J-1 physicians must maintain valid visa status, which requires, but is not limited to:

- Full-time participation in the training program for which Intealth sponsorship was granted.
- Possession of a valid Form DS-2019, Form I-94 marked J-1 “Duration of Status (D/S),” and a valid, unexpired passport.
- Compliance with mandatory address reporting via MyIntealth within 10 days of any change in residential address throughout the course of sponsored training. EVSP uploads all address changes to SEVIS.
- Immediate notification to Intealth of any *proposed* changes to the approved training program or curriculum, including location, course of training, leaves of absence, termination, remediation, etc., and any serious incident or allegation impacting the J-1 or J-2 dependent. Find required reporting forms at <https://www.ecfm.org/evsp/resources.html>.
- Disciplinary actions by a host institution/training program are expected to follow all Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements for Sponsoring Institutions (<https://www.acgme.org/programs-and-institutions/institutions/institutional-application-and-requirements/>). Intealth defers discretion for disciplinary actions related to the training program and/or trainee performance to the host institution. Intealth does not intervene in institutional contractual issues. As with termination from a training program, J-1 physicians who resign in lieu of termination may not be eligible for future sponsorship.

Selected Federal Regulations

Key regulatory parameters for J-1 physicians participating in clinical U.S. GME programs include:

- **INA §212(e):** J-1 physicians and all J-2 dependents must return to their home country following completion of or early withdraw from U.S. training for an aggregate of at least two years before being eligible for certain other U.S. visa statuses.
- **INSURANCE:** J-1 physicians and all accompanying J-2 dependents must maintain health, accident, medical evacuation and repatriation of remains insurance during their U.S. stay. Intealth provides medical evacuation and repatriation insurances. J-1 physicians must obtain health and accident insurance for themselves and all J-2 dependents. In many cases, health and accident insurance is provided or offered by the host teaching hospital. (<https://www.ecfm.org/evsp/applying-general.html#insurance>)
- **WORK OUTSIDE OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM (“MOONLIGHTING”):** Intealth sponsorship authorizes participation in a specific training activity/ location. Associated financial compensation is also confirmed at the time of Form DS-2019 issuance. Work outside of the approved training program/ institution is prohibited. J-1 physicians may, with the approval of their program director, engage in supplemental clinical activities at their training site with submission to Intealth of the required form.
- **CHANGE IN SPECIALTY:** J-1 physicians may change specialty one time within the first two years of acquiring J-1 status under Intealth sponsorship. Once a J-1 physician enters the third year of sponsorship, a change in specialty is no longer permitted.
- **MAXIMUM SPONSORSHIP DURATION:** Intealth’s sponsorship for programs of GME is limited to the time typically required to complete specialty/subspecialty training requirements as defined by the ACGME and/or Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The duration of sponsorship is further limited to a maximum of seven years.
- **REPEAT TRAINING:** J-1 physicians are expected to advance through progressive levels of training as required by their chosen specialty/subspecialty boards. Repetition of any portion of training is discouraged. Requests for repeat training will only be considered upon strong recommendation by the Program Director. No more than 12 months of training can be repeated/ remediated.
- **30-DAY GRACE PERIOD:** Upon completion of U.S. training, J-1 physicians and accompanying J-2 dependents must depart the United States within 30 days of the last date of participation in the training program or the most recent end date on Form DS-2019, whichever comes first. The 30-day grace period does not carry work authorization. Therefore, no employment or training is permitted during this time. The 30-day grace period may not apply in certain cases of early dismissal or termination from the training program; in such cases the J-1 physician and accompanying J-2 dependents may be required to depart the United States immediately.
- **WAIVERS:** J-1 physicians who apply for a waiver of the two-year home physical presence requirement of INA §212(e) and subsequently receive a favorable recommendation from the U.S. Department of State (DoS) are ineligible to renew/extend their J-1 sponsorship through Intealth for further training.

Future Travel

Once EVSP validates your initial arrival in SEVIS, subsequent travel outside the United States will require a valid J visa and **a travel endorsed Form DS-2019** issued by an Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO), or Regional Advisor, at Intealth. Travel endorsement requests after initial SEVIS validation can be made by completing and uploading the *Request for Duplicate Form DS-2019* using MyIntealth. Information about travel is available at www.ecfm.org/evsp/during-travel.html



Be sure to check out these helpful links!

- Pre-arrival Information (www.ecfm.org/evsp/applying-pre-arrival.html)
- EVSP Reference Guide (www.ecfm.org/evsp/evsprfgd.pdf)
- U.S. Department of State - BridgeUSA Exchange Visitor Program (<https://j1visa.state.gov/>)
- U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Consular Affairs (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>)
- U.S. Department of State Wilberforce Pamphlet (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wilberforce-english.html>)
- The Exchange Visitor Program Welcome Brochure (<https://j1visa.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/EVP-Welcome-Brochure-2022.pdf>)

EVSP wants to be a resource for you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at Jprogram@intealth.org or at 215-823-2121.