



THE Locum Times



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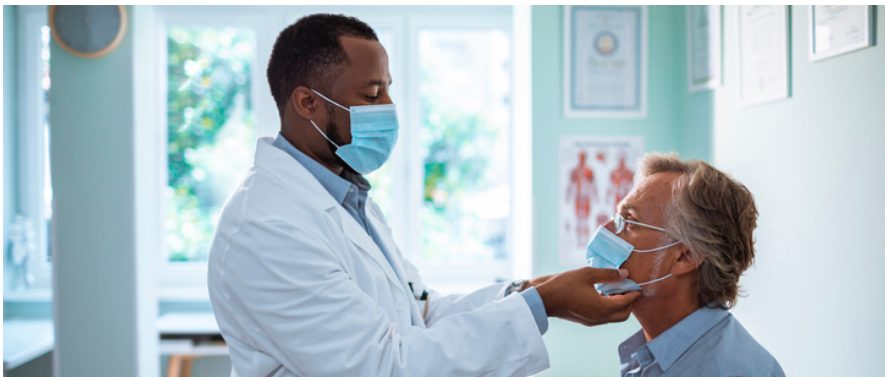
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WE LIKE YOU, BUT HAVE YOU LIKED US YET?



WHAT WILL A BIDEN PRESIDENCY MEAN FOR HEALTHCARE?



The President-elect campaigned on a number of healthcare issues, particularly the ACA, drug prices, and the pandemic response. Some sources are already using the term “[BidenCare](#)” to refer to potential legislation and executive actions. Here are a few of the things we can expect from a Biden presidency in regard to healthcare as we move through this transitional period.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

One of the biggest challenges facing the country and the healthcare industry is the ongoing pandemic. Fortunately, the President-elect has experience in handling infectious diseases on a smaller scale after participating in the response to the H1N1 and Ebola outbreaks in the past. Biden has also been very open about his plans to rely on the scientific and medical communities for guidance moving forward.

According to [research by PwC](#), we can expect a Biden presidency to include, “an intensified federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic, enlisting the Defense Production Act to compel companies to produce large quantities of tests and personal protective equipment as well as supporting ongoing deregulation around telehealth.” These measures would help get much needed PPE out to healthcare facilities that are still struggling to meet demand and will encourage further development of telehealth opportunities that can benefit both patients and providers.

President-elect Biden has moved quickly in regard to COVID-19 by putting together a [Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board](#) consisting of 13 experienced health experts, many of whom have previously served in senior public health positions in the federal government. In a statement, Biden commented that the board, “will help shape [his] approach to managing the surge in reported infections; ensuring vaccines are safe, effective, and distributed efficiently, equitably, and free; and protecting at-risk populations.”

MEDICAL STAFFING SHORTAGES

The [PwC report](#) highlights an important factor hindering many fa-

cilities right now in that many locations are struggling with staffing shortages. These shortages were exacerbated by the current administration’s policies of limiting immigration, while the pandemic served to further discourage travel. Those facilities that relied on foreign-born providers, such as many rural facilities, may still find their options limited until we see how Biden’s [immigration reform](#) plays out. He has outlined support for rolling back many restrictions that were put in places over the last few years. Additionally, President-elect Biden’s statements on telehealth offer some hope for these facilities, as that may be a good avenue to get patients access to some types of care when local providers are in short supply.

STATE OF THE ACA AND BEYOND

The fate of the ACA remains unclear. Should the GOP continue to hold the Senate and if the Supreme Court rules against portions of the ACA that have been under litigation, then Democrats may work toward replacement legislation and other measures to preserve certain items from it. Either way, we can expect a movement toward legislation that will address coverage gaps in Americans’ healthcare, ef-

forts to stop surprise billing, and a focus on drug pricing. Drug pricing has been a particularly hot issue as some factions have pushed for further drug importation and others are calling for limits on price increases.

With many Americans out of work as a result of the pandemic, the PwC report indicates that health systems would be wise to work toward appealing to those newly eligible for Medicare. A Biden administration would likely help generate new, more generous ACA plans that would be in reach for more people just as the need becomes greater.

While the future of healthcare is most likely marked by slow changes and an expectation for the reversal of certain elements introduced over the past four years, the PwC report does make a cautionary note about the ACA. If the Supreme Court strikes down the ACA overall, there could be a great deal of disruption and ambiguity as a result. In the meantime, the President-elect has continued to expand on his plans for the future, which could help shed some light on what would happen in either circumstance.





MULTI-STATE LICENSING MADE EASY

A Quick Guide to the [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact \(IMLC\)](#)

1. What is interstate compact licensure?

It is an agreement among U.S. states that addresses the licensing of physicians across state lines, making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states. The Compact License also strengthens public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary information.

2. Where can I see a list of Compact Member States?

You can view an interactive map of IMLC Member States here: <https://www.imlcc.org>

3. How do you know if your current State Medical License can be utilized for compact licensure?

You must hold a full, unrestricted medical license in one of the Compact Member States that is available to serve as a State of Principal Licensure ([please see map here](#)) AND at least ONE of the below must apply:

- a. Your primary residence is in the State of Principal Licensure (SPL)
 - b. At least 25% of your practice of medicine occurs in the SPL
 - c. Your employer is located in the SPL
 - d. You use the SPL as your state of residence for U.S. federal income tax purposes
- 4. In order to obtain a Letter of Qualification (LOQ) a provider must meet ALL of the following qualifications:**
- a. Have graduated from an accredited medical school, or a school listed in the [International Medical Education Directory](#)
 - b. Successful completion of AC-GME or AOA accredited graduate medical education
 - c. Passed each component of the USMLE, COMLEX-USA, or equivalent in no more than three attempts
 - d. Must be Board Certified
 - e. Must not have any history of disciplinary actions on any medical license
 - f. Must not have any criminal history (fingerprints will be required)
 - g. Must not have any history of controlled substance actions noted on their medical license
 - h. Must not currently be under any type of investigation





- i. NOTE: There are no refunds, so ensure that you qualify **before** applying

5. How does the process work?

An online application is completed and submitted with a \$700 non-refundable application fee. You will then receive instructions to obtain fingerprints for a national criminal background check, which must be completed within 60 days. Once your qualifications as a provider have been verified, you will be sent a Letter of Qualification. We can now go onto the IMLCC website, select the compact states that you want to be licensed in and submit the licensing fees for each individual state. Additional states can be chosen at a later date for an additional \$100 handling fee.

6. How long does it take to receive the Letter of Qualification (LOQ)?

Along with reviewing your training and other qualifications, the Letter of Qualification process involves querying data banks and running a criminal history background check. As a result, it may take several weeks for your selected State of Principal License to complete this step. After you receive a Letter of Qualification, the process of issuing licenses in IMLC Member States usually takes only a few days. The LOQ is good for 365 days.

7. What is the cost?

Application cost is a \$700.00 fee PLUS the cost of the IMLC Member State license(s) where you select to practice. If after the first selection of states you desire to select more states, there is a \$100.00 handling fee, in addition to the state application fees. All fees are non-refundable, per IMLCC rules.

8. If you don't have a license in one of the Compact Member States and you apply for a license in a Compact Member State, can you select that state as your State of Principal Licensure (SPL)?

YES, as long as you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- a. Your primary residence is in the SPL
- b. At least 25% of your practice of medicine occurs in the SPL
- c. Your employer is located in the SPL
- d. You use the SPL as your state of residence for U.S. federal income tax purposes

Would you like assistance with this process and to have your IMLC license paid for? Ask us how!

Getting your IMLC license can open doors to a wide variety of new opportunities. This is great for providers who wish to participate in locum tenens work because you can get licensed in multiple states simultaneously and be ready to work in multiple locations more quickly and efficiently.

If you are interested in learning more, our experienced team is here to help with any questions you may have about locum tenens work and IMLC licensing. [Get in touch with us today](#) so we can get started.



IS YOUR FACILITY PREPARED FOR THE TWINDEMIC OF COVID-19 & FLU SEASON THIS WINTER?

As another surge of COVID-19 is projected to occur during the winter months, health-care facilities across the country must be proactive in securing ample staffing for an overload of patient cases. The combination of flu season and COVID-19 will make staffing even more crucial, as providers in all types of specialties will be needed to treat patients for a wide range of medical conditions. From pulmonary care to cardiac medicine, these physicians will become essential for facilities with a high number of flu and COVID-19 cases. To address growing staffing demands, here are two of the main reasons why investing in a staffing partnership can help:

Avoiding staffing shortages. As flu season and COVID-19 get into full gear over the winter months, it will be critical for facilities to avoid severe labor shortages, especially pertaining to physicians with certain specialties. Hiring locum tenens physicians can significantly help in maintaining adequate staffing levels, as well as provide necessary supplemental support to full-time staff during times when patient volume is highest. Also, keep in mind that flu season – now accompanied with COVID-19 – will very likely result in more physicians needing to take sick time. Having additional locum tenens physicians on your team will provide a staffing cushion when your permanent physicians must take unexpected time off to care for themselves or their families.



Timely recruiting. When a pandemic strikes hard, there's no time to waste undergoing an extensive recruiting process. By working with a locum tenens company, you'll be able to ensure timely and efficient staffing when your facility needs it most. Because the degree of a COVID-19 outbreak in your area can be unpredictable, most facilities are finding it difficult to predict how much staffing they will need at any given time. A locum tenens partner can quickly screen and secure physicians for your facility to help you prepare for when a spike of patient cases occurs, allowing

your team to keep a high quality of patient care. Most importantly, locum tenens staffing allows your facility to hire both temporary physicians and temp-to-hire physicians, offering the flexibility to hire providers in various capacities as needs arise.

Proper staffing will be instrumental in preparing your facility for the flu season and potential COVID-19 outbreaks that may lie ahead. [Get in touch](#) with MPLT Healthcare and learn how a partnership with us can help your facility navigate this uncertain time.



TRAVEL



AIR TRAVEL UPDATES

Even as many areas have begun to go back into some degree of lockdown, travel has picked up throughout much of the U.S. as the holiday season begins. How you travel is an important factor in COVID-19 risk. A [Department of Defense study](#) produced “encouraging” results that suggest air travel can be quite safe, so long as everyone is wearing a mask. This is in large part due to the way air circulates and is filtered on most planes. A Harvard study also concluded that proper precautions can make air travel even [safer than grocery shopping](#).

Perhaps as a result of these studies, many airlines will no longer block out seats on flights. As of December 1st, [Southwest will join United and American Airlines](#) in allowing all seats to be sold. Other airlines are preparing to drop the measure during 2021.

The [CDC points out](#) that the airplane is not the only place where air travel can put people at risk. It is important to continue maintaining distance and mask-wearing while in security lines and terminals, and to continue to wash your hands regularly or after touching surfaces.

ARE HOTELS SAFE?

The CDC has updated its travel recommendations to state that for those who must travel, there are ways to reduce your risk when [staying in hotels](#). Utilizing online options for booking, check-in, and payment help reduce contact. Some hotels even offer mobile room keys using an app and your phone instead of a physical room key.

It’s also useful to find out what precautions the hotel is taking. [The CDC suggests](#) looking for transparent barriers and physical distancing protocols. Asking about the hotel’s disinfection procedures can give you insight as well. Are they cleaning high contact areas such as elevator buttons, phones, vending machines, and remote controls? Are they letting rooms sit empty for a period of time before housing new guests in them?

Other measures you can take yourself include wearing a mask in all common areas and minimizing your time in areas that might lead to close contact such as break rooms, lounge areas, game rooms, spas, and fitness centers. Consider whether areas have poor ventilation as well, and take the stairs instead of the elevator if possible.



MPLT HEALTHCARE IN THE COMMUNITY



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Our team wore pink throughout October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and raised donations to give to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) in support of the fight for a cure. We raised a grand total of \$600! Even more exciting, there was a match for all donations at the time, so our total impact was \$1200!



HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a big event here at MPLT Healthcare! These are a few highlights from our celebration, but you can check out the rest of the costumes over on our social media pages.



NAMSS WEEK

National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week took place in early November. Each of our teams did something special to say thank you to our Credentialing Team for the essential part they play in getting providers ready to care for patients. Thank you, Credentialing!



HOT JOBS

JOB ALERTS

Sign up for our Job Alerts and get new job openings delivered straight to your inbox or smartphone.

CRITICAL CARE

Bismarck, ND

OB/GYN

Clinton, IA

GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Escanaba, MI

GASTROENTEROLOGIST - LOCUM

Columbia City, IN

CVT

Palm Beach, FL

GS TRAUMA

Charlotte, SC

PULM/CC

Indianapolis, IN

OB HOSPITALIST

Tampa, FL

MFM

San Jose, CA

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

Los Angeles, CA

DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICS

Norfolk, VA

CHILD ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Philadelphia, PA

PSYCHIATRY

Tucson, AZ

HOSPITALIST

Slidell, LA

HOSPITALIST

Decatur, IL

IM/NP

Philadelphia, PA

CRNA

Pittsburgh, PA

PULM

Madison, IA

CRITICAL CARE

Detroit, MI

HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY

San Francisco, CA

HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY

Louisville, KY

[See all job postings](#)