CLINICAL VISA SPONSORSHIP FOR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Foreign physicians (residents and fellows) who wish to participate in clinical training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center must obtain one of the following two types of visas:

Contact AHR/VISA for any questions or if the foreign physician holds other visa statuses.

**J-1 Visa Sponsored through ECFMG**

The J-1 is a temporary nonimmigrant visa reserved for participants in the U.S. Department of State’s Exchange Visitor Program. Applicants must apply directly to the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for J-1 visa sponsorship.

An overview of ECFMG Certification and J-1 visa sponsorship requirements for foreign physicians can be found at the following website: [http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/j1fact.html](http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/j1fact.html).

The candidate may contact ECFMG directly or visit their website to determine if additional information or documentation is needed at [http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/index.html](http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/index.html).

**'Clinical' H1B Visa Sponsored through Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**

A ‘clinical’ H1B visa will require the Medical Center (Academic HR/VISA) to submit a petition to the U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The department sponsoring the foreign national is responsible for **ALL COSTS** associated with the preparation and filing of the H1B petition.

Once a foreign candidate is matched to a program, the sponsoring department should contact AHR/VISA immediately for consultation. Departments should submit the H-1B visa sponsorship request to AHR/VISA at least 6 months prior to the residency program start date.

Minimum requirements for foreign physicians who will need 'Clinical' H1B visa sponsorship through USCIS include the following:

1. Passing all parts of USMLE exam (Steps I, II & III)
2. ECFMG Certificate
   
The above two requirements need not be met by foreign physicians who have graduated from U.S. medical schools. Such physicians need only prove that they have graduated from a U.S. medical school and that they have a California state license.
3. “Postgraduate Training Authorization Letter” (previously called “Applicant Status Letter”) issued by the Medical Board of California or a ‘Full and Unrestricted License’ to practice medicine in the State of California

Section 2065 of the Business and Professions Code allows graduates of U.S./Canadian medical schools to engage in two years of approved postgraduate training without a permanent state medical license. At the end of the two-year period, the physicians must be licensed or all clinical services in California facilities must cease.

Section 2066 of the Business & Professions Code allows graduates of international medical schools (IMGs) who have a Postgraduate Training Authorization Letter issued by the California Medical Board to engage in three years of approved postgraduate training without a permanent state medical license. At the end of the three-year period, the IMG must be licensed or all clinical services in California facilities must cease.

*Please visit the Medical Board of California’s website [http://www.medbd.ca.gov/](http://www.medbd.ca.gov/) for additional information and requirements regarding Postgraduate Training Registration.*