The International Platform on Health Worker Mobility: Evidence, Solutions and Instruments: Innovations in verification and credentialing of health workers

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World Health Organization

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ECFMG
About ECFMG

• Non-profit

• Private, non-governmental

• Established in 1956

• Founded to evaluate international medical graduates (IMGs) for entry into U.S. graduate medical education
  
  ○ “ECFMG Certification”

Areas of Expertise

• Physician credentials related to medical education, training, and licensure

• Primary-source verifying authenticity of credentials

• Assessing clinical skills
ECFMG Certification

Pass Exams + Credentials Verified = ECFMG Certificate

Required for:
- Residency
- Licensure
Primary-Source Verification

Challenges for Mobile Physicians

- Time to verify credentials
  - Postal delays
  - War
  - Natural disasters
- Redundancy
  - Medical Regulatory Authorities and employers require primary-source verification of medical credentials

Primary-source Verification at ECFMG

- Verification of medical credentials begins in 1986
- Over 850,000 credentials have been PSV over 30 years
- ECFMG’s Reference Library contains thousands of medical education credentials and school seals
Innovations in Primary-Source Verification

**Time it Takes to Verify Credentials**

**Solution:** Communicating in Multiple Languages

- Multi-lingual staff
- Paper verifications sent in 10 languages

Languages Spoken by ECFMG Staff

- Arabic
- Russian
- French
- Spanish
- Italian
- Ukrainian
- Farsi
- Hindi
- German
- Mandarin
- Cantonese
- Portuguese
- English
- Dutch
- Vietnamese
Innovations in Primary-Source Verification

Time it Takes to Verify Credentials

Solution: Leveraging technology
- ECFMG Portal
- Email
- Website

# of Organizations Verifying Electronically

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Via ECFMG Web Portal</th>
<th>Via Email</th>
<th>Via Web-Site</th>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>120</td>
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### Innovations in Primary-Source Verification

#### Redundancy in Credentialing by MRAs

**Solution:** Streamlining the process – enabling portability of data & electronic sharing of information with regulators

- In United States, collaboration with FSMB
- For other jurisdictions worldwide, ECFMG International Credentials Services & EPIC

#### Countries Using ECFMG International Credentials Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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</tbody>
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Streamlining Processes for International Medical Graduates in US

- Previously verified credentials for ~4,000 IMGs shared with FSMB every year in their pursuit of licensure in the US
- ~85,000 verifications per year shared with hospitals & employers in the US

Source: ECFMG Database
Streamlining Processes for International Medical Graduates Worldwide

ECFMG’s International Credentials Services & Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials

• Leverages ECFMG expertise in medical education credentials and primary-source verification
• Secure, on-line portal:
  • for MRAs to access verified credentials of physician applicants for licensure
  • for physicians to build web-based portfolio for the medical credentials
• ECFMG shares findings of its “irregular behavior” on credentials reports with MRAs

Data on International Creds Services:

• Over 35,000 credentials verified for physicians seeking licensure in 14 countries per year
• Citizens from over 150 countries have used ECFMG’s verification services
• Credentials from over 150 countries have been verified by ECFMG

Source: ECFMG Database
Questions & Discussion

Information
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