

## DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (MD)

**Licensing Authority** Amy Van Maanen  
Board of Medical Examiners  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
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**Legal Authority** Code of Iowa, Chapters 147, 148 and 272: Iowa Administrative Code 653

**Job Description** Doctors of medicine perform medical examinations, diagnose illnesses, and treat people who are suffering from injury or disease. They examine patients utilizing diagnostic aids such as: stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, thermometer, and other instruments; elicit and record information about patient's medical history; order or execute various tests, analyses and x-rays to provide information on patient's condition; analyze reports and findings of tests and examination, and diagnose condition; administer or prescribe treatments and medications; promote health by advising patients concerning diet, hygiene, and methods for prevention of disease; perform surgical procedures commensurate with surgical competency; and, may practice any of the known medical and surgical specialties.

Individuals who qualify for medical licensure in Iowa may practice medicine and surgery, call themselves "Doctor," and use the letters "MD" or "DO" after their name.

**Education & Experience Required** Applicants must graduate from an approved college of medicine and surgery or an approved college of osteopathic medicine and surgery and must complete one year of post-graduate training in an approved hospital-affiliated program in the U.S. or Canada. If medical education occurred at a foreign medical school, the applicant must possess a current Educational Council Foreign Medical Graduate (ECFMG) certificate and pass one of the approved licensing examinations.

**Continuing Education** Forty hours of category 1 continuing medical education are required biennially for license renewal. A licensee who regularly provides primary health care to children (emergency physicians, family practitioners, general practice, pediatricians, and psychiatrists) must complete two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting every five years. A licensee who regularly provides primary health care to adults (emergency physicians, family practitioners, general practice, internists, obstetricians, gynecologists, and psychiatrists) must complete two hours of training in dependent adult abuse identification and reporting every five years. For those providing primary care to children and adults, a combined two-hour course is acceptable.

**Examination** A graduate of a medical college who has never been licensed in another state must take and pass Steps 1–3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Those who have been licensed in another state must meet the exam criteria in effect in Iowa at the time of the individual’s original licensure in another state. The fee for taking the exam administered by the board’s designated testing service is the fee established by the Federation of State Medical Boards, plus \$50.

**Fees** Application: \$400  
Duration: Two Years (expires on birth month)  
Renewal: \$325  
Exam: \$450  
Other: \$100 (Resident)

**SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage** 29-1061 – Anesthesiologists (\$49.27)  
29-1062 – Family and General Practitioners (\$57.60)  
29-1063 – Internists, General (\$54.03)  
29-1064 – Obstetricians and Gynecologists (N/A)  
29-1065 – Pediatricians, General (\$64.60)  
29-1067 – Surgeons (> \$70.00)  
29-1199 – All Other Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners (\$21.37)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of June 30,  
2002: 5,887  
2001: 6,022  
2000: N/A

**For Additional Information** Board of Medical Examiners Physician Licensure Web site:  
<http://www.docboard.org/ia>

American Medical Association  
515 N State St  
Chicago IL 60610

Association of American Medical Colleges  
Section for Student Services  
2450 N St NW  
Washington DC 20037-1131

Iowa Medical Society  
1001 Grand Ave  
West Des Moines IA 50265  
Phone: (515) 223-1401

Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association  
1113 Locust St  
Des Moines IA 50309  
Phone: (515) 283-0002