

Are You Preparing to Leave, or Anticipating Going Back to, Clinical Practice?

6 Reasons Why It's a Good Idea to Talk with Your State Medical Board

1. Everyone needs a starting point.

Talking with your board can help you prepare to leave and/or come back to clinical practice by pointing you in the right direction for understanding requirements for notification of leave of absence, change of address, change of practice, availability of limited licenses, management of patient records, and other guidelines and requirements related to medical practice in your state.

2. Knowing what to expect is a good thing.

It is important to find out ahead of time about the process your state has in place for those who leave clinical practice and wish to return. Your board is a starting point for finding out what prerequisites, statutes, etc., your state has in place related to returning to practice as requirements may vary from state to state. Knowing as much detail as possible about your state's expectations and process for returning to practice will help facilitate your return.

3. Licensure is a privilege.

Often it is hard to get a license back once it has expired or has not been renewed. The burden of proof is on the physician to demonstrate that he or she has met the appropriate requirements for license reinstatement in order to reenter practice. Similarly, you should be aware of what requirements you must meet for license renewal should you choose to maintain your license while you are out of practice.

Contact information for the 70 State Medical and Osteopathic Boards in the U.S. is available at:
<http://www.fsmb.org/policy/contacts>



Talking with your board will help ensure that you understand what the specific requirements are for your state and will help in deciding which option is best for you.

4. There are financial costs.

Leaving clinical practice often means a change in income. Talking to your board about the costs associated with maintaining your license, or a limited license (if available), and fees that might be associated with reinstating a license will help you plan financially.

5. Things change.

When you are out of clinical practice your usual methods for keeping up-to-date on clinical practice issues may change. Your board can provide information and guidance on how to stay current on regulatory changes that may affect your return to practice.

6. Lifelong learning is continuous.

Medical license renewal or maintenance of licensure is based on continuing professional development even if you are taking a leave from clinical practice. Your board may be able to direct you to resources that can help you with your professional development, as well as provide guidance on other requirements related to your medical license.

