



AOA INTERNATIONAL LICENSURE SUMMARY

Updated: July 2006

This summary of licensure availability in countries for graduates of United States osteopathic medical schools is revised and expanded on a continual basis. Some countries have definite policies regarding either the licensure of D.O.s, the licensure of internationally trained physicians and health care practitioners and/or the licensure of non-citizens. A few countries have consistently refused to grant U.S.-trained D.O.s full practice rights, often permitting them to perform only manipulation and sometimes refusing to grant them any type of practice. Other countries, however, are simply not educated on the qualifications of U.S.-trained D.O.s and their equivalence in education, training and practice to M.D.s. To that end, communication with international health care officials can be a time consuming and formidable task.

There are a few issues to keep in mind when researching licensure possibilities in foreign countries. Many countries that were or continue to be under British influence adhere to Britain's definition of an "osteopath," a non-physician health care practitioner who practices only manipulation. Due to the similarity of the titles, many of these countries refuse to grant U.S.-trained D.O.s practice rights beyond the scope of manipulation.

Further, the procedure by which international countries consider granting physician licensure to foreigners is not consistent among all countries. The procedure can take the form of a simple interview with a Minister of Health or Medical Board, a handshake with a governmental insider or the submission to a battery of examinations, intensive residencies and the like.

Also, the intent and type of practice sought by the U.S.-trained D.O. might warrant a substantially different application procedure. For example, those who are interested in working on a volunteer basis or for a mission often find the process less hindered by paperwork and legal regulations. For this reason, an applicant should be as clear as possible about his or her intentions when making a written inquiry.

The following is a catalog of countries in which the AOA has investigated osteopathic licensure. Included in each country's listing is the year in which the last request for updated licensure status was made, the scope of osteopathic practice in that country, an overview of issues specific to that country and the contact for licensure inquiries. As you will note, information regarding many of these countries is out-of-date and has not been reevaluated. In addition, licensure status can change from year to year - so it is encouraged that the individual contact the appropriate authority well in advance of an expected visit or move.

Should you wish to investigate licensure possibilities in a country not listed below or would like to have more information regarding one of the listed countries, please contact the AOA Division of State Government & International Affairs, 142 East Ontario, Chicago IL 60611; (800) 621-1773 ext. 8196.

Further, it would be of great help to the AOA and other osteopathic physicians if the AOA Division of State Government Affairs were notified of the outcome of any inquiries. In addition, if correspondence from international health agencies is received, please forward copies for the files maintained at the AOA. This will help greatly with future inquiries.

Argentina

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Per correspondence from the Ministry of Culture and Education, it appears that U.S.-trained D.O.s will be permitted to obtain a full physician license in Argentina in accordance with requirements for all foreign physicians. Argentine law does not specifically include osteopathic medicine or the D.O. degree; instead, foreign physicians must submit credentials to various agencies and then appear before any of the National Universities in order to have their diploma considered as an Argentine equivalent.

Contact:Secretary General

Confederacion Medica Argentina
Ave Belgrano 1235
Buenos Aires 1093
Argentina
P: 541143838414

Aruba

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: denied

Per its director, the Aruba Public Health Department can only issue a license to graduates from five U.S. medical schools, none of which are osteopathic medical schools.

Contact:Director

Public Health Department
Oranjestad
ARUBA

Australia

Year of Last Request: 2000

Scope of Practice: varies

The Australia Medical Council has continually denied requests by the AOA to recognize U.S. educated and trained D.O.s for the unlimited practice of medicine. However, a U.S. educated and trained osteopathic physician was recruited to head up an emergency room in the suburbs of Sydney. Through the efforts of the hospital, he secured an unlimited medical license through the New South Wales Medical Board upon endorsement of the Australian College of Emergency Medicine. It appears that licensure would be dependent on the state.

Contact:New South Wales Medical Board

Medical Board Building
Off Punt Road
PO Box 104
Gladesville NSW 1675
New South Wales
AUSTRALIA
<http://www.nswmb.org.au>

Australian Medical Council
PO Box 4810
Kingston Act 2604
AUSTRALIA
<http://www.amc.org.au>

Austria

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

In order to practice in Austria, a hospital must have a position available, which cannot otherwise be filled by an Austrian physician.

Contact: Austrian Medical Chamber
Weihburggasse 10-12
A1010 Vienna
AUSTRIA
<http://www.aek.or.at>
international@aek.or.at
P:43151406931

Bahamas

Year of Last Request: 1997

Scope of Practice: unlimited

In January 1997, the Bahamian Medical Council, for the first time, issued a license to practice cardiac and vascular surgery to a U.S.-trained D.O.

Contact:Registrar, Bahamian Medical Council
PO Box N-9802
Nassau
BAHAMAS
(242)326-0538

Barbados

Year of Last Request: 1974

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

No provision for registration or licensure of osteopathic physicians exists yet the Ministry of Health and Welfare refused to grant full practice rights to a U.S.-trained D.O. in 1974.

Contact:Barbados Medical Council
Minister of Health
Old Hospital Building
Jemmott's Lane
St. Michael
BARBADOS
P:246275130

Belize

Year of Last Request: 2005

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Chapter 318, Section 7(1) of the Medical Practitioner's Registration Act of Belize "allows for the registration of medical practitioners who satisfy the Council of their eligibility for registration including Belizean residency."

However, Section 7(7) B delineates requirements for temporary registration (less than one year) as follows:

- Employment on a full-time basis with a non-profit organization or hospital; or
- Contracted with a private institution where no Belizean is qualified for the job; or
- Practicing a specialty that is not provided in Belize.

The AOA was notified that a US-educated DO was granted a temporary license as a psychiatrist in Belize.

Contact:Chairman, Belize Medical Council
Northern Regional Hospital
Holy Trinity Street
Orange Walk Town
Belize
Navaron69@yahoo.com

(501) 322-2072

Bermuda

Year of Last Request: 1997

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Applicants must have graduated from an approved college of osteopathic medicine accredited by the AOA, have successfully completed two years of postgraduate training as a minimum, and must be examined by the Council's Examination Committee or interviewed by the Council. Non-Bermudan physicians must have approval from the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs to work on the island.

Contact: Bermuda Medical Council
Ministry of Health & Family Services
PO Box HM11 95
Hamilton Hm Ex
Bermuda
P:14412360224

Bolivia

Year of Last Request: 1988

Scope of Practice: unknown

According to AOA file information, a response was not received from the Embassy.

Contact:Embassy of Bolivia Colegio Medico de Bolivia
3014 Massachusetts Avenue, NW OR Calle Ballivian 1266
Washington, DC 20008 La Paz
BOLIVIA

Brazil

Year of Last Request: 2000

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A U.S. educated osteopathic physician was granted an unlimited license to practice medicine in Brazil. It is a difficult process and requires taking and passing a Brazilian examination., establishing residency, and do some training in Brazilian hospitals.

Contact:Conselvio Federal de Medicina
SGAS 915
Brasilla DF 70390-150
Brazil
cfm@cfm.org.br
P:614455900

Cambodia

Year of Last Request: 1992

Scope of Practice: unknown

Several attempts to contact the Minister of Health in Cambodia have failed, most likely due to the current political unrest. No Cambodian Embassy exists in the United States, yet the AOA has established a contact through a non-profit, Cambodian-advocacy organization the director of which has ties with Cambodian Health officials.

Contact: Cambodian Medical Association
#73 Boulevard Preah Monivong
Phnom Penh
CAMBODIA

Canada

Listed below are the licensure requirements for US-trained D.O.s in the provinces and territories of Canada. All the provinces that have provisions for licensing D.O.s as physicians require that D.O.s be graduates of AOA-accredited osteopathic medical colleges and they be or intend to become Canadian citizens. For the provinces or territories that state, "no provisions exist for licensing US-trained D.O.s," it is suggested the individual contact that regulatory authority. While there may not be a provision, the regulatory agency may consider amending its current policy to include recognition of US-trained D.O.s. Update: in October 2005, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada will "recognize the degree issued by the Osteopathic Medical College and Accredited by the American Osteopathic Association in the United States of America as an acceptable medical qualification towards eligibility for Certification."

Alberta

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: Must have completed at least 2 years of GME accredited by the ACGME or AOA and must have passed the Universities Coordinating Council Exam, a basic sciences exam, and have passed all three parts of the licensing examination of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC).

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta

900 Manulife Place
10180-101 Street
Edmonton Alberta T5J 4P8
CANADA
(780) 423-4764
<http://www.cpsa.ab.ca>

British Columbia

Scope of Practice: one licensure pathway provides D.O.s with unlimited practice rights, and another pathway limits D.O.s to practice OMM

Requirements: To be eligible for unlimited licenses: must have completed at least one year of GME approved by the AOA or the ACGME, completed at least 1 year of GME in Canada, passed all three parts of the LMCC. For licenses limited to OMM: must have completed at least 2 years of AOA approved GME and passed all three parts of the NBOME or COMLEX.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

400-858 Beatty Street
Vancouver British Columbia V6B1C1
CANADA
(604) 733-7758
<http://www.cpsbc.ca>
drvanandel@cpsbc.ca

Manitoba

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: In 2002, the College voted to register U.S.-educated and trained DOs.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba

1000-1661 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3T7
CANADA
(204) 774-4344
<http://www.cpsm.mb.ca>
bpope@cpsm.mb.ca

New Brunswick

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: Must have completed at least 2 years of GME approved by the AOA or the ACGME and have passed all three parts of the LMCC. There is also a reciprocity pathway for D.O.s holding a license to practice medicine in Maine.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick

1 Hampton Road, Suite 300
Rothesay, New Brunswick E2E 5K8
CANADA
(506) 849-5050
<http://www.cpsnb.org>
info@cpsnb.org

Newfoundland

Scope of Practice to be determined

Requirements: in 2002, the College committed itself to seeing that the government establishes a registration pathway for U.S.-educated D.O.s. It is anticipated that establishing guidelines may take a couple of years.

Contact: Newfoundland Medical Board

139 Water Street, Suite 603
St. John's Newfoundland A1C 1B2
CANADA
(709) 726-8546

Northwest Territories

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: While no specific provisions are in place, the AOA has been told the government will grant registration to any physician that qualifies for licensure in any other province.

Contact: Government of the Northwest Territories

Centre Square Tower 8th Floor
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife NWT X1A 2L9
CANADA
(867) 920-8058

Nova Scotia

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A new regulation was put into effect in 2002 to recognize U.S.-educated osteopathic physicians. A Canadian or ACGME residency is required.

Contact: Provincial Medical Board of Nova Scotia

Sentry Place
1559 Brunswick Street, Suite 200
Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 2G1
CANADA
(902) 422-5823
<http://www.cpsns.ns.ca>

Ontario

Scope of Practice: Unlimited

Currently, Ontario requires Canadian or ACGME residencies. In 2002, the Premier of Ontario and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) announced that changes were being implemented to recognize international medical graduates, including D.O.s who are now recognized by the CPSO. In addition, the CPSO has created a Fast Track Assessment Program for international medical graduates who wish to practice in Ontario.

The Fast Track Assessment is an expedited process designed for doctors with experience. It focuses on an evaluation of practice skills and can be tailored to the individual applicant. By evaluating the practice skills of the individual doctor rather than looking at the grades and training programs, the College acquires a more realistic view of the abilities of the individual physicians. For more recent graduates, there is the Standard Assessment process. It concentrates on examination grades and completion of an approved course of education and residency. All candidates are assessed in the same way. The CPSO now accepts the COMLEX-USA exam (**only with the Level 2-PE**) and USMLE with USMLE Step 2 CS (Clinical Skills) or ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) CSA (Clinical Skills Assessment) as equivalent to the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE). For more information on Ontario's registration, go to www.cpso.on.ca/info_physicians/applicants/regist.htm. The Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) in Ontario will now accept US-trained D.O.s for their 1st iteration match; previously D.O.s were only able to apply for the 2nd iteration of CaRMS. The CaRMS does, at this time, require the MCC exam, not the COMLEX-USA. For information, please visit www.carms.ca.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

80 College Street
Toronto Ontario M5G 2E2
CANADA
(416) 967-2600
<http://www.cpso.on.ca>
rgerace@cpse.on.ca

Prince Edward Island

Scope of Practice: no provisions exist for licensing US-trained D.O.s

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Prince Edward Island

199 Grafton Street
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 1L2
CANADA
(902) 566-3861
mmacdonald@collegeofphysicians.pe.ca

Quebec

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: Must have completed at least 1 year of GME approved by the AOA or the ACGME, must have completed at least 1 year of GME in Quebec, passed the written, oral and clinical board examination of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and must speak French fluently.

Contact: College des Medecins du Quebec

2170 Rene-Levesque Blvd West
Montreal Quebec H3H 2T8
CANADA
(514) 933-4441
<http://www.cmq.org>

Saskatchewan

Scope of Practice: limited to OMM

Requirements: Must have completed at least 1 year of AOA-approved GME.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan

211 Fourth Avenue South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 1N1
CANADA
(306) 244-7355
<http://www.quadrant.net/cpss>
cpss@quadrant.net

Yukon Territory

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: While no specific provisions are in place, the AOA has been told the government will grant registration to any physician that qualifies for licensure in any other province.

Contact: Government of the Yukon

PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
CANADA
(867) 667-5257
Dale.kozmen@gov.yk.ca

Cayman Islands

Year of Last Request: 1983

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A D.O. was granted an unlimited license to practice medicine in 1983. This represented a significant accomplishment, as the Islands are a British protectorate. Written examinations are not required for licensure and licensure is granted based on the applicant's academic degree and qualifications. No distinctions were placed on the D.O. degree and the government accepted his osteopathic credentials.

Contact: Chief Medical Officer

Tower Building
Grand Cayman,
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Central African Empire

Year of Last Request: sometime before 1990

Scope of Practice: unlimited

The D.O. degree and proof of licensure in one of the fifty U.S. states, plus annual attendance at the National Congress for Physicians is all that is required for licensure in the Central African Empire. No examination is required and students wishing to study tropical disease are not required to obtain permits and the like. Letters of inquiry must be written in French or Sango, which are the native languages.

Contact: Minister of Health

Bangui
CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

Chile

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Application for a practice license must be made to the University of Chile through the submission and transfer of the physician's medical diploma. A written exam, in Spanish, is required.

Contact: Directora Escuela de Pregrado Colegio Medico de Chile

Universidad de Chile Esmeralda 678
Avda. Independencia No. 1027 Santiago
Santiago CHILE
CHILE
P:5624277849

China

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Chinese law does not provide specifically for osteopathic medicine or the U.S. D.O. degree. For this reason, U.S.-trained D.O.s are permitted to apply for "Short Term Medical Practice."

Contact: Dr. Zhao Minggang, Official

Division of Hospital Management

Dept of Medical Administration

Ministry of Public Health

People's Republic of China

44 Houhai Beiyuan

Beijing CHINA

State Administration Tradition Chinese Medicine P.1.C.

7 Dongping Road

Chaoyang District

Beijing 00027 CHINA

Colombia

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Colombian law does not specifically state restrictions of osteopathic practice. Therefore, U.S.-trained D.O.s are permitted to submit their credentials according to the same procedure administered to other foreign physicians. They must contact the Colombian consulate closest to their professional residence for verification of original degree, then contact the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Colombia. All transcripts, programs of study, and copies of identification must be translated into Spanish and be notarized.

Contact: Ministry of Public Health

Carrera 13 No. 32-76

Bogota

Columbia

<http://www.minsalnd.gov.co>

Costa Rica

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Several requirements exist for foreign physicians wanting to practice in Costa Rica. Unless the physician was contracted individually by state institutions or marries a Costa Rican, the physician must have resided in the country for at least 5 years and will be required to serve both a one-year internship in a hospital and a one year service in the Medical Sanitary Service. The physician's diploma will be considered equivalent to that issued by the University of Chile in order to receive a practice license.

Contact: Colegio de Medicos y Cirujanos

Republica de Costa Rica

Apartado 548

San Jose

COSTA RICA

OR

Costa Rica Osteopathic Medical Association (CROMA)

P.O. Box 25216-1446

Miami, FL 33102

(a courier service delivers mail to Costa Rica)

<http://cro-ma.org>

Denmark

Year of Last Request: 1995

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact:Danish National Board of Health

Islands Brygge 67

Post boks 1881

2300 Kobenhavn s.

DENMARK

<http://www.sst.dk>

P:457-222-7400

Dominican Republic

Year of Last Request: 2000

Scope of Practice: unlimited

On July 4, 2000, legislation was enacted that recognizes U.S. educated osteopathic physicians for the unlimited practice of medicine. The law also recognizes AOA postgraduate training and board certification.

Contact:Dr. Victorino de Jesus Garcia Santos, Secretario de Estado

Ensached La Fe

Santo Domingo

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ecuador

Year of Last Request: sometime before 1990

Scope of Practice: unlimited

In order to practice in Ecuador, foreign-trained physicians must obtain an Ecuadorian medical license. This license is conferred upon passage of all Ecuadorian medical school examinations, the writing of a thesis in Spanish and completion of an internship. Temporary permits are available and registration must be confirmed annually.

Reciprocity exists with most Latin American countries.

Contact:Ministerio Chief Executive Officer de Salud Publica

Quito, ECUADOR

Egypt

Date of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact:Egyptian medical Syndicate

32 mohamed Talaat Salem St.

Nasr City Cairo

EGYPT

(202) 794-3166

Assama_rasslan@hotmail.com

Finland

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Foreign-trained physicians may only enjoy full practice rights in Finland with the permission of the Finnish National Board of Health. Knowledge of the Finnish language and a work permit are requirements.

Contact:National Authority for Medicolegal Affairs

PO Box 265

FIN-00531 Helsinki
FINLAND
(358) 977-2920

France

Year of Last Request: 1988

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

A work permit is necessary for a foreign-trained physician to practice in France. Osteopathic medicine is not recognized by the government, so only M.D.s can obtain full practice rights.

Contact:Conseil National de l'Ordre des Medecins

180 Boulevard Haussmann

F-75389 Paris Cedex 07

FRANCE

<http://www.conseil-national.medecin.fr>

(331) 538-93334

Germany

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A foreign physician may apply for licensure to the state Health Ministry where they intend to live and work. Each Ministry has jurisdiction within their own state. The regional medical authority has information regarding the types of providers needed in that area and therefore grants licenses depending on the specialty of the foreign physician. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. One American-trained DO has achieved (based solely upon US COM credentials) limited licensure in 1994, unlimited licensure in 1999 and is presently in practice there.

Contact:Minister of Health

Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (BMG)

11055 Berlin

GERMANY

Ghana

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact:Ghana Medical & Dental Council

PO Box 10586

Accra – North

GHANA

Greece

Year of Last Request: 2004

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

According to the Greek Embassy, foreign-trained physicians holding either the M.D. or the D.O. degree are able to obtain a full-practice license. However, such physicians must be Greek citizens in order to practice unless, and such instances are extremely rare, there exists a crucial need for certain types of specialist physicians. Further, a work permit must be obtained, a difficult task, and speaking Greek is an unwritten requirement. In 1998, an osteopathic physician began the process to obtain licensure. 1999 - D.O.s are not officially recognized by law, therefore a subcommittee was formulated to research U.S. osteopathic medicine. The subcommittee sent a positive report to the Medical Council of Greece. The final recommendation of the Medical Council should be issued shortly.

Contact:Mr. Nikos Papaconstantinou

Embassy of Greece

2221 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20008

DIKATSA-Medical Division	Ministry of Health and Education
112 Sygrou Avenue	223 Mesogeion Avenue
11741, Athens	115 25 Athens Hellas
GREECE	GREECE

Guatemala

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact:Colgio de Medicas y arujanos de Guatemala

Chief Executive Officer

17 Calle 1-61 Zona 1

GUATEMALA

Guyana

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A U.S.-trained D.O. was granted a physician license by the Ministry because his credentials were considered as M.D.-equivalent. Osteopathic medicine is not specifically recognized so applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Contact: Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health

Brickdam Georgetown 11

GUYANA

Honduras

Year of Last Request: 2002

Scope of Practice: Unlimited

The National Autonomous University must accredit all foreign titles. After accreditation is completed, then applicant must seek registration with the Medical College of Honduras (MCH). Titles, grades, and lesson plans must be authenticated in the country where studies were completed. Authentication must be done by the Honduran Consul in the same state. Upon completion, MCH will issue a provisional permit good for one year to a Honduran doctor who has done training outside of Honduras, and foreign applicants must complete two years of the Ad-Honorem Social Service. When the two years have expired, applicant may apply for Definitive Registration.

Contact:Dr. Julio Alberto Bourdeth Tosta, Secretary of Registration

Board of Directors of the Medical College of Honduras

P.O. Box 810

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.

HONDURAS

Hong Kong

Year of Last Request: 1998

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A letter from the Hong Kong Medical Council explained that there is no legislation governing the registration of osteopathic physicians. A prospective D.O. applicant can apply to the Licentiate Committee in order to sit for the Licentiate Examination. Passage of this exam along with completing "externship training," would entitle a foreign medical practitioner to full registration by the Medical Council. Applicants must have completed "not less than five years" full-time medical training of a type approved by the Medical Council before application is made. The information sent to the AOA did not specify what type of medical training the Council does approve. However, it did note that the Council may require a personal interview before application is made so that the Council is able to ascertain whether the applicant is indeed eligible for the examination.

Contact:The Licentiate Committee

The Medical Council of Hong Kong

17/F Wu Chung House

213 Queen's Road East
Wanchai
HONG KONG
<http://www.mcnk.org.hk>
P:85229618648

India

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: undetermined

The AOA received a response to its 1998 inquiry regarding licensure of US-trained DOs. The Medical Council of India stated that osteopathic medicine degree is not recognized for the purpose of IMC Act, 1956. However, they did state that a DO might apply after getting Indian nationality and after implementation of screening test Regulation/Provision in the Indian Medical Council Act.

Contact:Delhi Medical Council

RM NO 356-357 3rd Floor
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi 110002
INDIA

Indonesia

Year of Last Request: 1992

Scope of Practice: unlimited if with mission or university

Foreign-trained physicians can enjoy unlimited practice rights if they are working in conjunction with a university for a specific project, or if they are providing services on behalf of a mission. Foreign physicians are barred from private practice. No examination is required, yet a degree from an approved medical school is needed.

Contact:Indonesian Medical Association

J1 Sam Ratulangi
Jakarta 29
INDONESIA

WIHRD

OR JiPercetakan Negara 2G
Jakarta 29
INDONESIA

Iran

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact:Ministry of Health and Medical Education

Keshavarz Blvd.
Building #2 11th Floor
Tehran
IRAN

Ireland

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: denied

The AOA has written numerous letters to various government agencies in Ireland. At its August 1998 meeting, the Education and Training Committee reviewed pertinent information regarding the osteopathic education and training. The Medical Council on the recommendation of its Education and Training Committee decided to once again deny licensure to U.S.-trained D.O.s because osteopathic medical schools are not recognized by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the U.S. allopathic medical school accreditation body. In 2000, the AOA once again wrote to The Medical Council on the behalf of a U.S. educated D.O. who will be traveling with an American sports group as the team physician to compete in Ireland. The request was for approval to treat U.S. citizen while in Ireland. The response from The Medical Council has been that they will take the matter under consideration.

Contact:Registrar, Medical Council of Ireland

Lynn House, Portobello Court
Lower Rathmines Road

Dublin 6
IRELAND
<http://www.medicalcouncil.ie>
353.149.831.00

Israel

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: to be determined

Previously, U.S.-trained osteopathic physicians were granted full practice rights in Israel, providing they have established residence in Israel. It was required that all immigrant physicians pass a licensing examination given in summer or in winter. It is possible to take the test in English, but the knowledge of Hebrew is both necessary and mandatory in order to obtain employment as a physician in Israel (immigrant physicians are eligible for a free 5-mo intensive Hebrew course). The exam is a pass/fail and the format is multiple choice. Areas covered by the exam are internal medicine, surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, and psychiatry. The AOA was informed that the laws in Israel do not specifically include US-trained DOs. The AOA and osteopathic physicians who hold Israeli licensure are working to resolve this issue.

Contact:Ministry of Health
2, Ben Tabi Street
POB 1176
Jerusalem 93591
Israel
97226705820
pniot@matat.health.gov.il

Italy

Year of Last Request: 2004

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

It may be possible for a U.S.-trained D.O. to practice in Italy, yet it is extremely difficult to obtain the license to practice. Non-Italians must obtain a work permit, which is issued only when no Italian citizen can be found to fill the post. Therefore physicians are discouraged from seeking employment in Italy without firm contracts and work permits. According to 1990 AOA file information, if there exists a U.S. state law outlining reciprocity with Italy, a statement to this effect from the Italian Consulate will warrant better chances.

Contact: National Federation of the Orders of Doctors & Dentists
Piazza Cola Di Rienzo 80/A
Rome
ITALY
<http://www.fnomceo.it>
estero@fnomceo.it
39636203232

Jamaica

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: limited

The AOA has researched licensure in Jamaica through a specific mission project presented to the Minister of Health by a group of U.S.-trained D.O.s. While the request for D.O. degree recognition and full practice rights were initially denied by the Minister, the D.O.s were permitted to supply some services while participating in the mission.

Contact:Chief Medical Officer
Medical Council of Jamaica
Old Oceana Complex
9th Floor
2-4 King Street
Kingston 5
JAMAICA

(876) 922-3116

Japan

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Director

Office of Examination and Licensing

Ministry of Health and Welfare

1-2-2 Kasumigaseki

Chiyoda - Ku

Tokyo 100-25

JAPAN

Hayashi-shuichiro@mhlw.go.jp

Kenya

Year of Last Request: 1991

Scope of Practice: unknown

AOA files do not contain a response from Kenya health officials regarding the status of osteopathic licensure.

Contact: Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board

PO Box 44839

Nairobi

KENYA

(254) 271-1478

Korea (South)

Year of Last Request: 1995

Scope of Practice: unknown

AOA file information includes a request for information regarding the "Korean Society of Osteopathic College of Radiology," but no response was received.

Contact: National Health Personnel Licensing Examination Board

3891 Poongnapz-Dong

Songpa-KU

SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA

<http://www.kuksiwon.or.kr>

(822) 478-0332

Kuwait

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

Per a letter of inquiry from the AOA, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Public Health requested further information regarding the profession and educational structure of osteopathic medicine as practiced in the United States. The request for additional information was mailed, but no response was received from the Ministry.

Contact: Undersecretary

Ministry of Public Health

PO Box 5

13001 Safat

KUWAIT

Laos

Year of Last Request: 1992

Scope of Practice: unknown

From information obtained from the U.S. Embassy in Laos, it appears that D.O.s can work through medical relief organizations.

Contact: AOA State Government Affairs

Lebanon

Year of Last Request: 2004

Scope of Practice: unlimited

It was reported to the AOA that US-educated osteopathic physicians are considered on an individual basis and need a letter from the AOA citing their education, training, etc. If accepted, the DO can then sit for the medical examination currently used in Lebanon.

Contact: Minister S. Frangieh
Minister of Health
Rue du Musee
Beirut
LEBANON

Liberia

Year of Last Request: sometime before 1990

Scope of Practice: unlimited

All foreign-trained physicians must be approved on an individual basis and must submit a photocopy of a license and medical school degree. No distinction between the M.D. and D.O. degrees is made and a rotating internship is required. Special permits are not available, although visits of less than six months can be arranged.

Contact: Liberian Medical Board
Monrovia
LIBERIA

Luxembourg

Year of Last Request: 1987

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

The practice of medicine in Luxembourg by a doctor who is not a national of the European Economic Community is very rare.

Contact: Ministere de la Sante
57 Boulevard de la Perusse
L2320
LUXEMBOURG

Malaysia

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: denied

Malaysian law does not allow for osteopathic medical practice, therefore the Ministry denied the AOA's request for practice rights.

Contact: Malaysian Medical Council
Ministry of Health
50590 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA
32935077

Mexico

Year of Last Request: 1998

Scope of Practice: previously denied

Previous AOA file information indicated that D.O. licensure could not be obtained in Mexico unless through the

association of a short-term mission project, such as the osteopathic physician group "DOCARE." No physician, D.O. or M.D., may practice in Mexico without working papers, which requires completion of a five-year residency and after which services are given on a limited basis and under the supervision of a Mexican M.D. Political connections are extremely helpful but do not necessarily guarantee licensure.

Contact: Mexico Secretaria-Educacion Publica
Insurgentes sur 2387, 2 01000
Mexico

Micronesia

Year of Last Request: 1993
Scope of Practice: unlimited
Micronesian law does provide specifically for the inclusion of "doctors of osteopathy."
Contact: Secretary of Human Resources
Department of Health Services
Federated States of Micronesia
PO Box PS 70
Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Morocco

Year of Last Request: 1994
Scope of Practice: denied
Application for physician licensure is a "long and fastidious" procedure, according to the Minister of Health, unless a bilateral cooperation agreement has been signed by Morocco and the applicant's country of origin. According to a representative from the North African Affairs Bureau of the U.S. State Department, no such agreement exists between the U.S. and any country. Therefore no U.S. physicians, whether D.O. or M.D., are eligible to be licensed in Morocco.
Contact: Ministere de la Sante Publique
355, avenue Mohammed V
Rabat
MOROCCO

Nepal

Year of Last Request: 1993
Scope of Practice: unlimited
The Nepalese Minister of Health granted full practice rights to osteopathic physicians upon the AOA's first and only request. Full practice rights will be granted after approval by the Nepal Medical Council and the acquisition of a visa from the Immigration Department.
Contact: Nepal Medical Council
Exhibition Road
Siddi Sadan
Kathmandu
NEPAL
9771422694
nmc@healthnet.org.np

Netherlands

Year of Last Request: 1999
Scope of Practice: undetermined
The AOA sent a letter to the Netherlands requesting recognition of the U.S. D.O. degree for licensure of physicians. 1999 - The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport sent an application plus the requirements for "admission of foreign doctors." The requirements for licensure do not specifically recognize U.S.-trained D.O.s. The osteopathic physician interested in licensure will complete the application and submit it for licensure.
Contact: Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sport
Po Box 20350
Royal Dutch Medical Assn.
Lomanlaan 103

Den Haag 2500 ET
THE NETHERLANDS
<http://www.minvws.nl>
31703407400

OR

Po Box 20065
Utrecht 3502LB
THE NETHERLANDS
<http://www.artsennet.nl>
31302823248

New Zealand

Year of Last Request: 2005

Scope of Practice: unlimited on a case-by-case basis

A US educated DO was granted full licensure to practice medicine as a GP with a specialty of Musculoskeletal Medicine. The license was awarded following a hearing before the licensing authorities in New Zealand.

Contact:Chairman

Medical Council of New Zealand
PO Box 11649
Level 13, Mid City Tower
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND
<http://www.ncnz.org.nz>

Nicaragua

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

Per a telephone conversation with the Assistant Secretary for Non-governmental Assistance, budget constriction in Nicaragua prevents the government from paying foreigners who wish to work in Nicaragua. Financial aid is sometimes given through foundations and tax exemptions are given on items brought by foreign workers, such as medical equipment.

Contact: Minister de Salud
Miniterio de Salud
Ste. A Gallo y Villa Sur
Edif. Complejo Camilo Ortega
Managua
NICARAGUA

Nigeria

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unlimited

In order to gain licensure in Nigeria, an osteopathic physician must have graduated from an AOA accredited college of osteopathic medicine and must have completed a one-year rotating internship. An appearance in front of the Nigeria Medical Council is also required and an oral quiz may be mandated. Reciprocity exists with several other African countries and with the United States. In 1999, the AOA received a letter from a DO who is licensed in Nigeria. He was licensed in Nigeria by reciprocity of his Texas license and recognition of AOA training programs. He is licensed to practice medicine and surgery with a specialty certificate in orthopedics.

Contact:Dean, Faculty of Medicine
University of Ibadan
Ibadan
NIGERIA

Medical & Dental Council of Nigeria
Federal Secretariat
Phase II, 8th Flr PMB12611

NIGERIA
2348023113025

Norway

Year of Last Request: 1990

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

Although D.O.s are able to obtain a license to practice only manipulation in Norway, they are not permitted to use the title "doctor" and all osteopathic services are not covered for payment under Norway's socialized medicine system.

Contact:Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel

Postbox 8053 DEP

0031 0510

NORWAY

<http://www.safari.no>

4721529700

Pakistan

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unknown

Although the Council does not recognize the D.O. degree, one U.S.-trained D.O. has been recognized on individual merits by the Council after much documentary evidence; however, his practice is confined to one hospital and he may not engage in private practice.

Contact:Pakistan Medical and Dental Council

Mauve Area

Sector G-10/4

Islamabad Federal Capital

PAKISTAN

<http://pmdc.org.pk>

92519266429

Panama

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited

The University of Panama must first accept the diploma of the applicant as equivalent to that issued by the University. The applicant must also be a citizen of Panama and fulfill any necessary training from the Technical Council of Public Health.

Contact:Director General

Ministerio de Salud

Apartado 2048

Panama 1,

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Papua New Guinea

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Two U.S.-trained D.O.s were able to secure medical practitioner licenses. The physicians reported that it was a long, involved process that took approximately one year to accomplish. Physicians can also apply for a short-term or a long-term volunteer service license.

Contact: Registrar
Medical Board of
Papua New Guinea
PO Box 841
Port Moresby National Capital District
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Peru

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Colegio Medico del Peru
261 Los Procers
Lima, PERU

Ministry of Health
Ave Salaverry S-N
Cudra 7
Lima
PERU

Philippines

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Philippines Board of Medicine
P Paredes Street
Sampaloc Manila
PHILIPPINES
6327416061

Romania

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Ministry of Health and Family
Secdor 1
Ministerului 224
Bucharest
ROMANIA

Russia/Commonwealth of Independent States

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited with sponsor

Several U.S.-trained D.O.s have provided services in parts of the former U.S.S.R. through a program established by Deborah Hospital of New Jersey. According to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, a licensure process is not up and running; therefore, foreign doctors make arrangements to practice through Russian sponsors, such as hospitals or businesses.

Contact:Russian newspapers/medical journals

Ministry of Public Health
Vadikovskiy Per 18-20
101474 Moscow
RUSSIA

Association of Physicians of Russia
15-2-239 Petrozavodskaja St.
125502 Moscow
RUSSIA

St. Lucia

Year of Last Request: 2000

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A U.S.-educated D.O. was granted an unlimited license to practice medicine based on his credentials.

Contact:Medical Council of St. Lucia

Minister of Education & Health
Castries
ST. LUCIA

St. Kitts

Year of last Request: sometime before 1990

Scope of Practice: unknown

AOA file information indicates that the point of contact to inquire about osteopathic licensure is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, however no address is given.

Contact:Medical Board of St. Christopher & Nevis

PO Box 186
Basseterre
St. Kitts
WEST INDIES
8694652521

Saudi Arabia

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited

In order to practice medicine in Saudi Arabia, a foreign physician must be recruited by a government agency, a corporation or a private health care entity, such as a hospital.

Contact: Saudi newspapers/medical journals

Scotland

Year of Request: 1998

Scope of Practice: varies

A US-trained D.O. has been working in Scotland for several years as a non-physician osteopath. An osteopathic physician sponsored by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons was denied licensure based on the fact that osteopathic medical schools are not accredited by WHO. The AOA supplied the physician with information on osteopathic accreditation and also supplied information that WHO is not an accrediting agency for any medical schools in the U.S. **See also United Kingdom.**

Contact:The Secretary

Scottish Osteopathic Society
Rosemount Osteopathy
26 Northfield Place
Aberdeen AB25 1SD
SCOTLAND
Tel: 01224 635999

Sierra Leone

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Physician licensure can be obtained in Sierra Leone with the submission of notarized osteopathic medical school diploma, curricula vitae and a letter of intent to the Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Desire to work with a mission or for the needy will work in the applicant's favor. In addition, a D.O. who has been living in Sierra Leone for many years has been extremely helpful in assisting other D.O.s with obtaining practice rights.

Contact: Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Council

New England, PO Box 932

Freetown

SIERRA LEONE

P:2322220753

Singapore

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: denied

The Singapore Medical Council will not recognize the D.O. degree; in fact, it will only recognize those M.D. degrees conferred by 11 allopathic medical schools.

Contact: Singapore Medical Council

Level 4 Institute of Health
32nd Hospital Avenue 168937
SINGAPORE

<http://www.gov.sg/moh>

Singapore Medical Council/Ministry of Health

College of Medicine Building
16 College Road
SINGAPORE 169854

<http://www.smc.gov.sg>

South Africa

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

Osteopathic medicine is not legislatively defined and many barriers exist in licensing foreign-trained physicians despite the crucial need (there is only one doctor per 3,400 black South Africans). In 1996, the AOA wrote a letter to the South African Medical Council on behalf of a D.O. who was part of a medical mission team going to South Africa. The medical council did not wish to grant the U.S.-trained D.O. a temporary license to do medical missions work.

Contact: Registrar

Health Professions Council of South Africa
PO Box 205

Pretoria, Gauteng 0001

SOUTH AFRICA

<http://www.hpcsa.co.za>

27123389319

Spain

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: denied

Osteopathic medicine is not regulated in Spain and therefore, per the Secretary General of the Spanish Ministry of Health, D.O.s may not obtain physician licenses.

Contact: Spanish Council of the Colleges of Physicians

Villanueva, LL

Madrid 28001 SPAIN

<http://www.cgcom.org>

Spanish Consejo General de Colegios Medicos

Villaneuva 114

E-28001 Madrid SPAIN

<http://www.cgcom.org/ome0.htm>

P:34914317780

Sweden

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

An osteopathic physician met with Swedish officials and they did not seem to have any objections to U.S.-trained osteopathic physicians being licensed there (especially since two U.S.-trained D.O.s were granted full practice rights in 1974 and 1976).

Contact: National Board of Health & Welfare

Ralambsvagen 3

Se 106 30 Stockholm

SWEDEN

468555300

Medical Responsibility Board

Box 3539

Stockholm 103 69

SWEDEN

087831900

Switzerland

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: denied

Only Swiss citizens and "recognized refugees" are eligible to sit for the state-administered physician licensure exams. Passage of the examinations is the first step in receiving a license. After the examination process, one must obtain a work permit in order to participate in a post doctoral training program (residency) of which there are far less positions than applicants. This work permit expires after twelve months and cannot be renewed. Further, osteopathic medicine is not recognized by the Swiss government.

Contact: Swiss Medical Association

Elfenstrasse 18

Postfach 293

3000 Bern 16

SWITZERLAND

<http://www.fmh.ch>

P:41313591111

Syria

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Minister of Health

Parliament Street

Damascus
SYRIA

Taiwan

Year of Last Request: 2005

Scope of Practice: unlimited

The R.O.C. government recognizes the U.S. D.O. degree. This allows U.S.-educated D.O.s to sit for Taiwan's Examination Yuan and, if successful, can continue on in the process for licensure.

Contact:Director

General Department of Health
100 Aikuo East Road
Taipei
TAIWAN

Tanzania

Year of Last Request: 1985

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Licensure will be granted to applicants with medical school degrees who have completed a required, although unspecified, residency. Temporary work permits are available and reregistration is required annually.

Contact:Medical Council of Tanganyika

PO Box 9083
Dar-es-Salaam
TANZANIA

Thailand

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: undetermined

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact:Thai Medical Council

275 Devavesm Palace
Bangkok 2
THAILAND

Turkey

Year of Last Request: 1988

Scope of Practice: unknown

AOA file information is scant and to date no new requests have been made.

Contact:Turkey Ministry of Health

T.C. Saglik Bakanligi
Sihhiye Ankara
TURKEY

Uganda

Year of Last Request: 1990

Scope of Practice: denied

Uganda does not recognize the osteopathic profession and has therefore denied any type of practice rights to U.S.-trained D.O.s.

Contact:Registrar

Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners
PO Box 16115
Wandegeya Kampala
UGANDA

Ukraine

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unknown

There has been discussion about the possibility of establishing rotations, specifically ophthalmology, in the Ukraine. Documentation has been sent regarding the equivalence of DOs and MDs in the United States.

Contact: Contact the AOA for further information
(800) 621-1773 ext. 8280

United Arab Emirates

Year of Last Request: 1993 and 2004

Scope of Practice: varied

A U.S.-trained D.O. who has practiced in the U.A.E. for many years has informed the AOA about the status of osteopathic licensure. Physician licensure is difficult. In 2004, an osteopathic physician who also has a practice in Lebanon petitioned for recognition. The Ministry contacted the UAE Embassy in the United States for more information. The AOA provided the Embassy with information about the profession and but his request was denied.

Contact: Ministry of Health
PO Box 848
Abu Dhabi,
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
<http://www.moh.gov.ae>

United Kingdom

Year of Last Request: 2005

Scope of Practice: full scope of practice

The General Medical Council of Great Britain has announced that, after more than a year of deliberation, US-trained DOs will be accepted for full medical practice rights in the United Kingdom. Each applicant will have to pass the Professional Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) examination and work for one supervised year in the National Health Service (NHS). Following that year, the applicants will be able to apply for full registration (unsupervised practice or private practice). For registration as a specialist, postgraduate training will need to be separately recognized by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PME/TB).

Contact: Registration Services
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St James Buildings
79 Oxford Road
Manchester
UNITED KINGDOM

Venezuela

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

To date, the AOA has not received a response from the Health Minister regarding osteopathic licensure.

Contact: Ministerio de Sanidad & Asistencia Social
Recursos Humanos
Chief Executive Officer
Caracas
VENEZUELA

Vietnam

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

U.S.-trained D.O.s will be accepted as full physicians in Vietnam. Foreign physicians can fill vacancies in hospitals that are in need of certain specialists. However, these hospitals are government-owned and pay very low wages if any at all. Most foreign physicians are providing volunteer care to the people of Vietnam.

Contact:Ministry of Health

138A Gian Vo Street
Hanoi
VIETNAM

Professor Nguyen Kim Son
Viet-Doc Hospital
40 Trang Thi
Hanoi
VIETNAM

Professor Le Huy Lieu
Bach Mai Hospital
Giai Phonv Road
Hanoi
VIETNAM

Professor Trihn Kim Anh
Cho Ray Hospital
201A Nguyen Chi Thanh Street
District 5, HCMC
VIETNAM

Zambia

Year of Last Request: 1971

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A degree from an accredited college of osteopathic medicine is required for licensure in Zambia.

Contact:Medical Council of Zambia

PO Box 32554
Lukasa 10101
ZAMBIA

Zimbabwe

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

After review of the osteopathic medical curriculum, the Health Professions Council of Zimbabwe denied the AOA's request for full practice rights and instead referred D.O. licensure requests to the Natural Therapists Council.

Contact: Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe

PO Box CY2817

Causeway Harare

ZIMBABWE