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**NURSE-PHYSICIAN ADVISORY TASK FORCE FOR COLORADO HEALTHCARE
RELEASES CRUCIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON CREDENTIALING
PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES**

Colorado has massive shortage of physicians and lacks diversity in healthcare workforce while hundreds of experienced and talented International Medical Graduates face unnecessary obstacles to licensure

Denver, CO— [The Nurse-Physician Advisory Task Force for Colorado Healthcare \(NPATCH\)](#) has released a set of [policy recommendations](#) to streamline the process for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) as they seek to enter Colorado’s healthcare workforce as physicians.

NPATCH has been an existing healthcare policy task force since 2009 and is housed at the Department of Regulatory Agencies within the Division of Professions and Occupations. NPATCH promotes public safety and improves healthcare by increasing communication between the practices of nursing and medicine. It has 12 governor-appointed members, including five physicians with one representing the Colorado Medical Board, five nurses with one representing the State Nursing Board, and two consumer representatives.

In early 2021, at the [request](#) of 12 State Legislators and the Governor’s office, NPATCH was tasked with conducting an in-depth study of barriers that IMGs face in obtaining medical licenses in Colorado. They also recognized the disproportionate impact communities of colors faced during the pandemic and the lack of diverse representation among physicians.

“These recommendations cut to the heart of some of the most pressing obstacles IMGs face,” said Carrie Miller, Program Manager for Colorado Welcome Back at Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning. “NPATCH members skillfully analyzed an incredibly complex licensing process, incorporated best practices from other states, and identified solutions that will create equity within our healthcare workforce while retaining the integrity of the practice of medicine.”

Developed over the summer, the recommendations were finalized and posted publicly today. NPATCH recommendations include creating programs to assist IMGs in navigating the re-licensure process, creating hands-on clinical training programs, and equalizing IMG residency requirements to be the same as US-trained medical graduates. They have also identified a need for exceptionally qualified IMGs to be eligible for physician re-entry licenses (i.e., which is already available to physicians who have been out of practice for two or more years), earmarking residency slots for IMGs, and creating distinguished faculty licenses that could lead to full, unrestricted medical licenses in the future.

[Colorado Welcome Back](#) has been working for over a decade to build bridges between the talented pool of internationally trained health workers living in Colorado and the growing need for a diverse, linguistically inclusive, and culturally competent healthcare workforce. The program assists highly-skilled refugee and immigrant medical professionals—who have prior health education, training, and/or work experience from abroad—to navigate the medical licensure process in the United States.

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