

## 2002 Press Releases

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### Medical Board Streamlines Physician Application Process

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners has significantly redesigned its physician licensure application process to fast-track the majority of the applications, while still giving greater scrutiny to more complex applications, which are in the minority. The move represents a major change in the process by targeting the licensure application to specific types of applicants, including those who graduated from U.S. or Canadian schools, international graduates or physicians applying for relicensure. The new application packet is reduced from 32 pages to eight and will be available for download on the agency's web site beginning May 1.

At its meeting Thursday, the board's Licensure Committee approved the redesigned the licensure application process in order to shorten the current wait for a license, which can take up to six months. Physicians coming into Texas with positions open to them depending on their being licensed in the state have expressed frustration at the slowness of the process, as have institutions and practices waiting to hire them. The full board endorsed the committee's action at its meeting Friday.

In a major shift in procedure, applicants will be required to submit all documentation with their application when they apply for licensure. In the past, applicants were allowed to submit documentation piecemeal throughout the application review process, which resulted in loss of documents and delays in processing.

◆All applications will receive the level of scrutiny necessary to maintain the security and integrity of the process so that the public will continue to be protected by the licensure of only qualified applicants,◆ said Dr. David Garza, chair of the Board's Licensure Committee and a Laredo osteopathic physician. ◆The board and its licensure staff hope that by stratifying applications among levels of complexity, each application will receive appropriate review.◆

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