



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

August 2, 2024

Richard L. Masters Legal Counsel
Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission
Sent via e-mail only to:

Email - lawsaver@aol.com

Alternate Email: rmasters6134@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Masters,

In our July 17th letter, the Maryland Board specifically requested that the IMLCC contact us prior to sending enforcement letters. The Maryland Board is disappointed that it was not contacted to resolve this and instead received your second enforcement letter on July 25, 2024. It is unfortunate because your continued threats of enforcement actions and misstatement of the statute and rules are quite unproductive in resolving this matter.

The Maryland Board, however, still believes that it is possible to resolve these issues in a mutually respectful and professional manner, but first that we avail of an opportunity to apprise you of the inaccurate assertions in your letter. First, your letter incorrectly states that the Board's providing information to the Compact via email with result in "initial applications and renewal licenses remaining in a pending status." But, as you are aware, the Compact does not issue licenses, rather per Section 5(d) and 7(d) of the Compact statute, "***a member board*** shall issue an expedited license to the physician" and "***a member board*** shall renew the physician's license."

Maryland does not issue licenses through *iSTARS II* and therefore, neither initial licenses or renewals will remain in a pending status without input of information into *iSTARS II*. Rather, the *iSTARS II* data is solicited only after initial applications and renewal licenses are active valid licenses issued by Maryland. Maryland licenses are issued by the Maryland Board directly to the applicant as required by the statute. The Board performing data entry into the Compact's *iSTAR II* data system is not required to "complete the licensure process" as you stated in your letter because it occurs only after the Maryland licensure process has already been completed. The only purpose for this information being provided is to comply with Rule 5.5(4).

Second, the Maryland Board continues to comply with the requirements as set forth in the Compact's statute and rules as required under the law. You continue to misstate the requirements of the rules. For the second time, you have stated that IMLCC Rule Chapter 5.5, paragraph (4) requires inputting data into the *iSTARS II* system, however the unambiguous language of the Rule only requires that the Board provide the information regarding the licenses, which the Board has done and will continue to do. Specifically, the provision states:

(4) Upon receipt of all licensure fees required, and receipt of the information from the application, including the letter of qualification, the member board(s) shall promptly issue a full and unrestricted license(s) to the applicant, ***and provide information regarding that license to the Interstate Commission*** to maintain in its coordinated information system.

Compact Rule 5.5 (4) (emphasis added). This language in the Rule does not reference *iSTARS II* as you incorrectly assert in your letter. The Board continues to comply with Rule 5.5(4) because it promptly issues a full and unrestricted license to the applicants and provides information regarding that license to the Interstate Commission. In essence, the Board has provided and will continue to license applicants and licensee's renewals and has and will continue to provide the information required under the Compact per the statute and rules. The Compact is now threatening litigation and enforcement because it wishes to outsource its data entry of such information to the Maryland Board.

The Maryland Board hopes that this matter can be resolved amicably. To facilitate resolution, we would like to suggest a meeting between your IT professional and the Board's IT professional to determine whether it is possible to automate the delivery of the information between the Board's system and the Compact's system. Please provide us with the IT professional's contact information so we can try and resolve this matter.

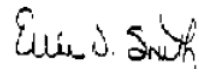
Sincerely,



Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair



Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director



Ellen D. Smith
Deputy Director

c: Members of the Board of Physicians
David Finkler, Board Counsel
Noreen Rubin, Board Counsel