

**Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Public Health  
Section of Health Planning and Systems Development**

**Guidelines Regarding J-1 Visa Conrad 30 Waivers<sup>i</sup>**

**Background Information:**

International Medical Graduates come to the United States for graduate medical training on J-1 visas sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. J-1 physicians are required to return to their home country for two years before seeking permanent U.S. residency. If a J-1 physician wishes to remain in the United States they have the option of applying for a J-1 Visa Waiver whereby they may remain in the U.S. and serve in health care shortage areas or populations for a period of three years while seeking a visa or permanent residency.<sup>ii</sup>

The [J-1 Visa Conrad 30 Waiver program](#) enables a state health department to find that it is in the public interest for a foreign medical graduate to be hired for a hard-to-fill position that provides care to an underserved population in its state. Up to 30 J-1 physicians are allowed in each state per year under the J-1 Visa Conrad 30 program. Additionally, under the J-1 Visa Conrad 30 “Flex 10” option, up to ten J-1 physicians annually can work in each state in a medical facility that is not physically located in a health professional shortage area but that serves residents of shortage areas.

To complete a J-1 Visa Conrad 30 placement, the J-1 physician works with the hiring medical facility to submit an application to the state’s public health department. The Director of the state’s public health department reviews each J-1 waiver application and then prepares a letter which states that it is in the “public interest” that the physician (J-1 visa holder) remain in the U.S. and be granted a waiver of section 212 (e) of the INA. The U.S. Department of State then reviews the waiver application and makes recommendations to the Immigration and Naturalization Service concerning such waivers.

**Materials that are to be prepared by the physician (J-1 visa holder) and the medical facility:**

- a. Evidence that the facility is located in or designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or a Medically Underserved Area (MUA). Alternatively, for the Flex 10 option, submit evidence that a significant amount of care provided by the J-1 physician will be for people residing in a HPSA or MUA. Evidence may include documentation from HRSA Shortage Designation Branch.
- b. A statement signed by the head of the facility at which the J-1 visa holder will be employed stating that the facility: (1) is located in or designated as a HPSA or MUA, or, for the Flex 10 option, that a significant amount of care provided by the facility is for people residing in a designated HPSA or MUA; and (2) provides medical care to both Medicare and Medicaid eligible patients, and indigent uninsured patients. The statement

should also include the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) county code and census tract or block numbering area number (assigned by the Bureau of Census) or the 9-digit zip code of the area where the facility is located.

- c. Evidence by the medical facility that unsuccessful efforts were made to recruit an American physician for the position (medical journal advertisements; labor certification or language in cover letter stating efforts to recruit an American physician have been unsuccessful).
- d. A signed contract for no less than 40 hours a week for three years between the facility and the physician, with signatures of physician (J-1 visa holder) and the head of the facility.
- e. Data sheet (form by Waiver Review Division) for physician (J-1 visa holder).
- f. Copies of all IAP-66 forms.
- g. Copies of any I-94 cards (front and back).
- h. Curriculum vitae of physician (J-1 visa holder).
- i. “No objection” statement from the physician’s (J-1 visa holder) government in cases in which foreign government funding is involved.
- j. Form G-28 or letter from a law office if applicant has an attorney.
- k. A statement by the J-1 physician as follows: “I, [Name of J-1 visa holder] hereby declare and certify, under penalty of provisions of 18 USC.1101, that: (1) I have sought or obtained the cooperation of [enter name of U.S. Government agency which is submitting a request on behalf of the exchange visitor to obtain a waiver of the two-year home residence requirement]; and (2) I do not now have pending nor will I submit during the pendency of this request, another request to any U.S. Government department or agency or any equivalent, to act on my behalf in any matter relating to a waiver of my two-year home residence requirement. Statement must be signed and dated.
- l. A statement from physician (J-1 visa holder) agreeing to begin employment at the facility within 90 days of receiving a waiver and work authorization.
- m. A statement from the physician (J-1 visa holder) regarding reasons for not wishing to fulfill the two year country residence requirement to which you accepted exchange visitor status.
- n. Evidence of medical licensure of physician (J-1 visa holder) in the state of Alaska or proof that the medical license application has been initiated.
- o. A statement by director of hiring facility and physician (J-1 visa holder) indicating

that if a waiver is awarded, the facility & physician (J-1 visa holder) will submit a letter to the Alaska J-1 Visa Coordinator every six months indicating continuous full-time employment of physician (J-1 visa holder).

**Guidelines for preparing documents:** Do not staple any documents. Copy one side only. Use 8 ½ x 11 white paper. Keep a copy of documents for your own records.

**Mail all the required documents to the following address:**

State of Alaska DHSS, Division of Public Health  
Section of Health Planning & Systems Development  
P.O. Box 110610  
350 Main Street, Suite 530  
Juneau, AK 99811-0610

**Materials to be prepared by the Division of Public Health:**

- a. After review of above materials, and if he or she concurs in the public’s interest with the need for a waiver, the Director of the Division of Public Health (as the official designated by the state governor) will prepare a letter which states that it is in the “public interest” that the physician (J-1 visa holder) remains in the U.S. and be granted a waiver of section 212 (e) of the INA. The letter will include the following:
  - Name of physician (J-1 visa holder)
  - Country of last legal permanent residence
  - Name and address of medical facility
  - Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) ID number if applicable
  - Number of J-1 visa waiver applications in Alaska for current calendar year
- b. The Director of the Division of Public Health will submit his or her letter along with all materials sent to him or her by the facility and physician (J-1 visa holder) materials to:

U.S. Department of State  
Waiver Review Division  
CA/VO/L/W  
600 19th Street, NW. SA-17, 11th Floor  
Washington, DC 20522-1707

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<sup>i</sup> Updated June 10, 2015

<sup>ii</sup> See [Public Law 108-441; US Department of State](#)