The Distinctive Difference of Osteopathic Licensure in the U.S.

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History of the Osteopathic Medical Profession

- Founded by Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO
- State Recognition Campaign: 1901-1989
  - California (1901)
  - Nebraska (1989)
- Federal Recognition Granted in 1966
Who We Are

- Fully Trained Physicians
  - Four years of osteopathic medical school
  - Three to eight years of postgraduate medical training (residency)
  - Licensed for the unlimited practice of medicine
  - Parallel branch of American medicine with a distinct philosophy and approach to patient care
What We Do

- Holistic approach to patient care—treating the whole patient
  - Emphasis on primary care
    - 60% of US-trained DOs practice in primary care specialties
  - Providing care in rural/unserved areas
    - Provide a disproportionate amount of primary care services in underserved communities
- Develop Education/Training Programs in Areas of Greatest Need
  - Goal is to train DOs in areas so that stay to provide care
Differences in State Regulation

Postgraduate Training

- States require one to three years of PGT
  - Accredited by AOA & ACGME
- DOs must pass all three levels of COMLEX-USA
- 14 States have separate licensing and disciplinary boards of osteopathic and allopathic physicians
- Fives states require DOs to complete an AOA accredited first year of PGT for licensure
Growth of the Osteopathic Medical Profession

- Largest growth segment of the U.S. health care professionals
  - More than 100,000 DOs in active medical practice by 2016
  - 30 Osteopathic Medical Schools offering instruction at 42 campus locations
  - Shortage of PGT Funding/Slots
Current/Future Issues

- Transition to Single Accreditation System
  - AOA/ACGME/AACOM Developing New GME System
  - Will Maintain Osteopathic Distinctiveness
    - Offer osteopathic-focused tracks
      - MDs will now be eligible to gain osteopathic-focused training
Current/Future Issues

- **Patient Centered Health Care**
  - Patient-Focused, Physician-Led, Team-Based
  - Natural Fit with Osteopathic, Whole-Patient Approach to Care

- **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**
  - System to establish a central clearinghouse of physicians seeking licensure in multiple states
  - States must join, physician participation is voluntary
Current/Future Issues

- Specialty Board Certification
  - Osteopathic Continuous Certification/Maintenance of Certification

- Maintenance of Licensure
  - OCC/MOC Substantially meet state MOL requirements
  - States using OCC/MOC to meet CME relicensure requirements
Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment

I pledge to: Provide compassionate, quality care to my patients;

Partner with them to promote health;

Display integrity and professionalism throughout my career;
Advance the philosophy, practice and science of osteopathic medicine;

Continue lifelong learning;

Support my profession with loyalty in action, word and deed; and

Live each day as an example of what an osteopathic physician should be.