

## CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SERVICES

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>Visa Sponsorship Policy</b>
DEPARTMENT:	GMEC
DATE OF ORIGIN:	January 15, 2010
LAST REVISION DATE:	July 1, 2014
REGULATORY REFERENCE:	ACGME

### **PURPOSE:**

To define the eligibility requirements for foreign national physicians seeking a residency or fellowship position at Christiana Care.

### **SCOPE:**

All graduate medical education programs at CCHS.

### **POLICY:**

Christiana Care Programs supports Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) J-1 visa sponsorship for applicants who are eligible for appointment to a residency or fellowship position.

In limited circumstances that benefit the institution, applicants requesting or currently holding an H-1B visa may be considered. Because the J-1 visa is the standard for Christiana Care residency and fellowship programs, exceptional use of the H-1B visa requires case-by-case review, approval of the DIO. All requests for exception must be approved in advance before the residency or fellowship program accepts or offers a position to a foreign national physician.

### **PROCEDURE:**

All J-1 visas must be processed through the Office of Academic Affairs.

### **J-1 Visa**

Exchange visitors applying for a J-1 visa must be eligible for visa sponsorship under the criteria set forth by the ECFMG, including successful completion of USMLE Steps 1 and 2 (CK & CS) and ECFMG certification.

J-1 visa sponsorship requirements and application materials can be obtained from the ECFMG website at [www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org). Application materials must be submitted following the protocol on the ECFMG website. The Training Program Liaison (TPL) in Academic Affairs will work with the resident in obtaining the visa. Application fees and other registration expenses, as well as reporting changes to the USCIS are the responsibility of the resident or fellow.

It is the J-1 visa holder's personal responsibility to maintain lawful status while in the United States and while training in a Christiana Care residency or fellowship program.

### **H-1B Visa**

Christiana Care accepts the H-1B visa only under exceptional circumstances. All requests for exception will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be approved in advance of offer of a residency or fellowship position. Applications for H-1B visas shall be handled by an attorney. Christiana Care reserves the right to retain the attorney of its choice. Christiana Care and the resident shall share the attorney's representation, unless Christiana Care's attorney or the parties have a conflict, in which case, the resident or fellow shall obtain his or her own representation.

H-1B Petition Fees: The training program shall be responsible for the H-1B visa filing and associated fees. These include the H-1B petition fee and the USCIS Fraud Prevention and Detection Fee when required. If a resident or fellow wishes to avail him or herself of the expedited process (the "Premium Processing option"), the resident or fellow shall be responsible for paying the additional fee. This must be paid separately.

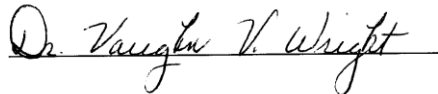
It is the H-1B visa holder's personal responsibility to maintain lawful status while in the United States and while training in a Christiana Care residency or fellowship program. The H-1B visa is valid only for the position (and employer) stated in the H-1B petition.

**Other Visas**

Residents and fellows are not eligible to train under other types of visas. Residents and fellows holding tourist visas will not be allowed to participate in the training program.

Christiana Care will not provide sponsorship of permanent residence for residents or fellows.

**SIGNATURES/APPROVALS:**



Reviewed 05/01/2015