

# Foreign medical practitioners: Requirements for medical practice and postgraduate training in Thailand under ASEAN Economic Community liberalization in 2015

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## **Abstract:**

The phenomenal liberalization of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community will take effect shortly. Therefore, the ASEAN nations are gearing up for its authenticity. The purposes of this study were to review the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) on Medical Practitioners (MPs), provide guidance and requirements for Foreign Medical Practitioners (FMPs) to practice medicine and continue their Postgraduate Medical Training (PGMT) in Thailand. As stated by the MRAs on MPs, there will be permission of free movement of MPs within ASEAN nations under these arrangements. However, to practice medicine in Thailand, FMPs must fulfill all the requirements set forth by the Professional Medical Regulatory Authority of Thailand. The requirements include, being a member of Thailand Medical Council (TMC), receiving graduate certificate from medical school accredited by TMC together with medical license from the country that he/she graduated, and passing all 3 parts of Medical Licensing Examination of Thailand (MLET). With Thai Medical License (TML), FMPs can pursue their PGMTs in various disciplines. Several international residency and fellowship programs and short courses for FMPs are also available. Fulfilling all domestic regulations of Thailand is challenging for FMPs. And, Thai language is crucial for medical practice and PGMTs in Thailand.

**Keywords:** ASEAN Economic Community Liberalization 2015, Foreign Medical Practitioner, Medical Practice in Thailand, Postgraduate Medical Trainings in Thailand