

Future of Medical Care and Education under Immigration Policy Change

Impact of President Donald J Trump's recent Executive Order blocking people from seven Muslim countries to the United States fails to clarify or categorize the profession of the people who are prevented to come to the United States. Unfortunately there will be a direct effect on doctors, researchers, medical students and nurses who are seeking to come here for training or employment. The recent policy change blocks individuals from Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the United States for 90 days. This decision has caused much chaos at the ports of entry at US airports. Recently two doctors who were returning from Yemen were detained and denied entry.

Currently there are approximately 900,000 physicians who are in the active delivery of medical care in the United States. The International Medical Graduate population in the United States is nearly 186,000 doctors. Approximately 50,000 are Muslim physicians who are immigrants. This number does not include American citizens who went to school in the United States and are Muslims. Muslim doctors are contributing to the economy of the United States in many ways. They are providing healthcare, in several specialties, research and in graduate medical educational facilities where they are either residents or fellows providing care to those in need. They are involved in relief work here in the States and abroad.

A ban on Muslim immigration that includes physicians will create a deficit in graduate medical education, resident and fellowship programs that are under ACGME accreditation programs. There will also be an impact on the USMLE certifying program. 30% of USMLE applications are from international medical graduates contributing nearly \$4000 per doctor toward examination fees. It is feared that ECFMG entity may lose as much as 41% of the revenue on a long-term. There is a \$3.5 billion per year liability insurance revenue that will also be affected.

Number of ECFMG certificates granted in 2015

Egypt	225	Iraq	104
India	1093	Jordan	198
Iran	230	Lebanon	148
Pakistan	765	Saudi Arabia	148
Sudan	84	Syria	116
Turkey	90		

Other impact is on the first year residency program positions that are filled by international medical graduates. These positions are 42% internal medicine, 26% in emergency medicine and 51% in family practice. The numbers of IMG physicians according to the countries are as follows. India 29%, Pakistan 7%, Egypt 3%, China 3%, Iran 3% Syria 2% and Lebanon 2%

International medical graduates distribution is as high as 51.2% in some parts of the United States. They are providing care to the needy in the inner cities, rural areas and metropolitan cities. New Jersey, New York, Florida and Illinois have the highest concentration of the international medical graduates who are trained outside United States of America.

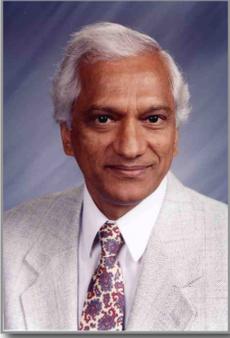
Physicians who are Muslims come from several parts of the world. Most of them come from the following countries. India 8,000 Pakistan 11,000, Egypt 4,900, Iran 4,500, Syria 3,500 and Lebanon 2,800

Certainly there is confusion and lack of guidance and uncertainty due to President's Executive order. This has caused a concern in the medical field. Question that is not answered is; What will happen to residency program, research and doctors returning to their jobs from overseas? This year 260 doctors have applied for medical residency program in the United States from seven nations affected by the order's 90-day ban. Returning doctors were detained at the airports or returned to their country in a chaotic manner. According to AAMC statement the executive order will disrupt education and research and would have a damaging long-term impact on patients and healthcare. Just stopping 260 resident programs will affect one million patients. There is predicted shortage of doctors by year 2025 anywhere in the range of 100,000. The future of medical practice would be affected especially internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, surgery neurology, psychiatry and pathology fields. The states that will be most affected are

New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois, Texas, Ohio, Massachusetts and California.

A further clarification of the Executive order regarding the medical profession needs immediate attention. It is of the utmost importance to stop terrorism but there is no link between doctors and terrorism. Each life matters and the nation should not be deprived of adequate medical care.

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Dr. Samadani has served in a number of leadership roles. He is the immediate past Chair of the Governor's appointed Public Health Council, Department of Health and Family Services, Wisconsin. He is the Past President and Board member of the Wisconsin Medical Society, and served as the Chair of the CME committee for the Medical Research and Education Foundation. He served as President of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation and Chair of Finance Committee of the Beaver Dam Scholarship Foundation.