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Movin' on Up and Doing It Smoothly

In less than three months, the majority of you will move, many of you to a new part of the country. In this month's *In Transition* we will help you in finding your next home and getting you there as smoothly as possible.

General Resources

As you consider jobs and different areas of the country, there are some online resources you should reference. [The US Census bureau](#) can provide you with useful statistics ranging from population size to income levels to the local business make up. [Sperling's Best Places](#) can give you an idea of how your chosen destination ranks with other metropolitan areas. Also on [Realtor.com](#) there are many [Moving Resources](#) including salary, cost of living comparisons and information on local schools. A city's Chamber of Commerce provides information as well, and can be found through this [Chamber of Commerce](#) site.

After you have chosen your job, you can go to [Realtor.com](#) to find a place to live. Be sure to review the '[rent vs buy calculator](#)' on the [Moving Resources](#) site. Many estimate that up to 70% of emergency medicine graduates change their job in the first 2 years, so carefully consider whether renting or buying is your best choice. Of course, in many parts of the

country, buying a house in the wake of the housing crisis is a great investment! Unlike any other occupation, being a physician could qualify you for a 0% down payment mortgage. When planning your actual move, the [Moving Resources](#) site also includes information on using professional movers and moving yourself. A nice middle ground for many people is to pack on your own and let professionals perform the actual moving. This is usually less costly and more private. Be sure to negotiate moving expenses in your final contract if you have not done this already. It is not too late to request moving costs to be covered by your employer, even if the ink is already dry on your signed employment agreement!



Continued on next page

Finally, [ACEP State Chapters](#) can help with local resources and contacts as you transition into their state. Of note, the [Government Services Chapter](#) serves all military personnel, regardless of their locale. Once you move to your new community, you will need to locate local attorneys, accountants, and other professional services. Speak to your colleagues at your new practice and listen to their recommendations. For these services, word of mouth is the best reference.

Licensure

Licensure deserves special mention in both moving and beginning your practice because the process can take a long time. In obtaining your license, the order of events are: a) getting licensed in the desired state; b) applying for a state controlled substance number (required by most states); and c) applying for (or changing the address on) your DEA number. This process in total can take anywhere from 3-9 months, so you must begin early.

The initial step, obtaining state licensure, can take six weeks to six months. Most state boards have Web sites, and that is where you can begin the process of application. The [Federation of State Medical Boards](#) Web site has a link to the majority of the state boards, or you can use an Internet search engine, using the key word “medical license” and the appropriate state. On the Federation of State Medical Boards’ site click the “State Medical Board Info” link for the list of medical boards. Most states will give you an estimate on how long their particular licensure process will take.

After you receive your license, most states make you apply for a state controlled license substance number, a process that can take 1-2 months. Your state board can tell you how to begin the application process. After you receive your state controlled substance number, you may then apply for your initial DEA number or change your address through the [DEA](#). Please be aware that it is your responsibility to promptly notify state medical boards or the DEA of any changes in your name or address.

As you can see, this process can take some time, so begin it as soon as possible.

Best of luck choosing your new job and finding the community in which you wish to live. Stay tuned for May’s *In Transition*: Your First Paycheck: Financial Planning, Debt Management, and All Things Money.

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