

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state's practice laws and regulations. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted. In order to achieve mutual recognition, each state must enact legislation or regulation authorizing the Nurse Licensure Compact. States entering the compact also adopt administrative rules and regulations for implementation of the compact. Once the compact is enacted, each compact state designates a Nurse Licensure Compact Administrator to facilitate the exchange of information between the states relating to compact nurse licensure and regulation. On January 10, 2000, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) were organized to protect the public's health and safety by promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each party state through the mutual recognition of party state licenses. The Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing serves as the Compact Administrator for Texas.

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face at least twice a year. The last face to face meeting of the NLCA took place on March 9, 2014 in Kansas City. The revisions to the Strategic Plan were reviewed and approved. A decision was made to increase the NLCA fee to \$6000 annually. A new Fact Sheets for New Graduates was approved.

New Compacts in Development

The National Association of State EMS Officials is developing an interstate Compact "to solve the problem associated with day-to-day emergency deployment of EMS personnel across state boundaries." This Compact is scheduled to be developed by May 2014. For key talking points, see <https://www.nasemso.org/Projects/InterstateCompacts/documents/Model-Interstate-Compact-Talking-Points-July2013.pdf>

In October 2013, the Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) approved the exploration of an Interstate Compact.

<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/physical-therapists-endorse-exploration-compact>

In addition, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)s also developing an interstate Compact. Their House of Delegates approved a resolution calling for the FSMB to "formally explore the creation of a new system that would utilize an "interstate compact" to increase efficiency in the licensing of physicians who practice in multiple states." This resolution passed unanimously during the annual meeting on April 20, 2013. See their press release at:

http://www.fsmb.org/pdf/fsmb_news_rrelease_multistate_compacts.pdf

The FSMB has also been commended for these efforts by a bipartisan group of 16 U.S. Senators. http://www.fsmb.org/pdf/interstate_compact_senators_january13C.pdf

APRN Compact

The Executive Officers and legal counsel of states who have passed the APRN Compact and states interested in joining the APRN Compact has been meeting since April 2012 to draft a new APRN Compact, rules and Uniform Licensure Requirements to conform to the national APRN

Consensus Model and to add enforcement and rule making provisions to strengthen the Compact, see: https://www.ncsbn.org/Consensus_Model_for_APRN_Regulation_July_2008.pdf

The draft Compact was published for public comment on the NCSBN website. The APRN Compact Workgroup met in early April to consider comments and forward a recommendation to the NCSBN Board of Directors that the APRN Compact be adopted by the Delegate Assembly in August 2014.

Compliance Committee

The Texas Compact Administrator chairs the Compliance Committee. The committee continues to refine new Compliance policies. The Committee is working with Nursys staff to develop an audit process through the new ROMS data base which is expected to be beta tested in 2014. This audit will assist Compact Administrators in assuring compliance with the Compact.

Operations Network

Mark leads this group of staff from Compact State Boards of Nursing who make recommendations for policy changes to the NLCA. This group recommended changing the rule regarding time limits for working in a new home state before licensure from 30 to 90 days. The NLCA agreed and the rule is being adopted in Compact states at this time. They are also working on a Common Declaration of Primary State of Residence Form to be used by all Compact states.

Participating States

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 24 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Texas Compact Statute and Rules

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/npa2.html#4-001>

The Texas Administrative Rules for the Compact can be found at this page by clicking on BON Rules and Regulations and navigating to Chapter 220.

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/rr.html>