

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) meet via teleconference once every other month and face to face twice a year.

The NLCA Executive Committee consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, two Committee Members-at-Large, and an APRN Administrator Member-at-Large. Katherine Thomas serves on the Executive Committee as the APRN Administrator at Large. Texas is one of two states to have adopted the APRN Compact but it will be a few years before the states are ready to implement this more complex Compact.

At recent meetings, the Administrators have revised the Frequently Asked Questions document and the Mentor Evaluation Process for new Compact Administrators. The Web Site and Discipline procedures are being reviewed. Revised Model Rules adopted by the NLCA at the August 2008 meeting are being published and adopted by all Compact states. The Texas Board of Nursing adopted these rules April 14, 2009.

The next meeting of the NLCA-EXEC will be a conference call on Monday, July 14, 2009.

NCSBN-NLCA Relationship

NCSBN is currently revisiting the Uniform Core Licensure Requirements (UCLR) to consider revision. The Compact states have worked to adopt the current UCLR and will do so with any newly adopted standards. These standards promote consistency of licensing requirements across all Compact states.

Leadership of NCSBN and NLCA have met twice to discuss the ongoing relationship and support

needed to accomplish the NCLA's work. We are exploring a new relationship within the NCSBN organization including appropriate staff support and a reporting relationship (dotted line relationship) to the Board of Directors. This may involve changes to NCSBN bylaws in the future.

Participating States

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in twenty-three states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Missouri passed the Nurse Licensure Compact in May 2009 and the bill is awaiting the Governor's signature at this time.

For future reference on the Nurse Licensure Compact, refer to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing web site at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/156.htm>

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>