

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. She is also the APRN Member-at-Large on the NLCA Executive Committee.

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) meet via teleconference once every other month and face to face twice a year.

The Executive Committee meets monthly by teleconference.

Future Meetings for NLCA will be a conference call on Tuesday, February 16 and a face to face meeting Sunday, March 7 prior to the NCSBN Midyear Meeting. The NLCA Executive Committee will meet by conference call on Monday, April 19, 2010.

NLCA Strategic Plan

The Executive Committee had a Strategic Planning meeting scheduled for January 8th that had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather. The meeting will take place January 21-22, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona. I will be unable to attend due to our Board Meeting but will participate by conference call on Friday afternoon following the Board Meeting.

I will update the Board when the new Strategic Plan is finalized.

New Brochure

Please see the attached new brochure on the Compact.

Participating States

Missouri adopted the NLC this summer; an implementation date will be next summer. The Compact has been adopted by 24 states.

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 23 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 will implement in the summer of 2010.

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>

Nurse Licensure Compact

Nursys™: The coordinated nurse licensure database which is used by boards of nursing for licensure verification and licensee discipline actions. All information involving any discipline action is accessible to all NLC states. Additional information in Nursys™ is also available to participating non-compact states.

For License Verification....

It is suggested that licensees contact the board which issued the license or perform an on online verification at www.nursys.com .



For more information, contact:

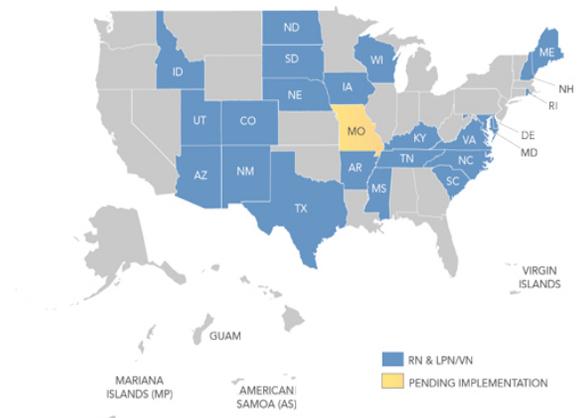
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or visit

www.ncsbn.org/nlc



Information for Licensees



The Mutual Recognition Model

The NLC follows the mutual recognition model of nurse licensure. This model allows a nurse (RN and LP/VN) to have one license (in the nurse's state of residency) and to practice in other compact states, being subject to each state's practice laws and discipline. Sources used to verify a nurse's primary residence for the NLC may include, but are not limited to, driver's license, federal income tax return or voter registration.

Under mutual recognition, practice across state lines is allowed, whether physical or electronic, unless the nurse is under discipline or a monitoring agreement that restricts practice across state lines.

The mutual recognition model is much like the model of the Drivers License Compact. As a driver, one applies for a license in the state of residence and that license provides the privilege to drive not only in the state of residence but also to cross state lines and drive in other states. Similarly, as motor vehicle drivers must obey the driving laws in the states in which they drive, so, too, are nurses are accountable for complying with the nursing practice laws and other regulations in the state where the patient is located at the time care is rendered.

Advanced practice nurses were not included in the NLC because of the wide variability in the regulation of advanced nursing practice which

needed special consideration. A separate APRN Compact offers states the mechanism for mutually recognizing APRN licenses and authority to practice.

How will this impact you?

❖ If you are a nurse licensed in Texas but have primary residency in a non-compact state you must continue to hold a Texas license. It will not include the multistate licensure privilege to practice in other compact states.

❖ If you are a nurse declaring Texas as your primary state of residency and hold an unencumbered nursing license, you have multi-state privilege to practice in any of the other compact states. Should you happen to have an active license in any of the other compact states, any such license will be made inactive. You must, however, hold a license in every non-compact state that you wish to practice in.

❖ If you move from Texas to a non-compact state your Texas license will become a single state license (valid only in Texas) and you will need to apply for a new license in your new state of residence.

❖ If you move from Texas and declare another compact state as your primary state of residence, you can practice on your Texas license for a period of up to 30 days. By law you can only hold one multi-state license and will need to obtain a license in this new state of residence and inactivate your Texas license.

Definitions

Compact: An interstate compact is an agreement between two or more states established for the purpose of remedying a particular problem of multistate concern. (*Black's Law Dictionary*)

Home State: The compact state in which the nurse declares residency and receives the license that allows participation in the NLC.

Remote State: The compact state in which a nurse practices on a multi-state privilege although does not have primary residency in.

Party State: This refers to a state participating in the compact, a compact state.

Compact State: A state participating in the compact, also known as a party state.

(Primary) State of Residence: The state in which a nurse declares a principal residence for legal purposes. Sources used to verify a nurse's primary residence for the NLC may include, but are not limited to, driver's license, federal income tax return or voter registration.