

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.

Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact:

The new "Enhanced" NLC adopted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Delegate Assembly in May 2015 has been introduced by 15 states during their 2016 legislative sessions. At this time, 6 states have passed and enacted the new Compact including Florida, Idaho, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming. Four states have passed one house (Arizona, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Oklahoma). And three states have passed the bill out of their 1st committee (Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri). Two additional states introduced the ENLC in 2016.

APRN Compact:

Two states have passed and enacted the APRN Compact in 2016 — Idaho and Wyoming.

Follow the new Compact at: www.nursecompact.org

Other Healthcare Licensee Compacts in Development

The National Association of State EMS Officials has developed an interstate Compact "to solve the problem associated with day-to-day emergency deployment of EMS personnel across state boundaries." This Compact was finalized in August 2014 and was passed into law in Texas in 2015. For key talking points, see

<https://www.nasemso.org/Projects/InterstateCompacts/>

The Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) has drafted an Interstate Compact and anticipates introduction by states in 2016.

<https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/PhysicalTherapyLicensureCompact.aspx>

The Interstate Compact for Physician Licensure has been adopted by 10 states including Alabama, Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming

<http://www.licenseportability.org/> In 2016, 12 states have introduced the Medical Licensure Compact.

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards has developed an Interjurisdictional Telepsychology Compact and anticipates adoption by states in 2016.

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.asppb.net/resource/resmgr/PSYPACT_Docs/PSYPACT_Press_Release_3_16_2.pdf

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 13, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois.

Compliance Committee

The Texas Compact Administrator co-chairs the Compliance Committee. The committee continues to refine new Compliance policies, develop flow charts for use of the new policies, and refine the self-audit tool. The new policies and flow charts were adopted at the March Mid Year meeting of the NLCA. The Committee is working with Nursys staff to develop an automated audit process through the Nursys data base. This audit will assist Compact Administrators in assuring compliance with the Compact.

Participating States in the Current NLC

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 25 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, 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.texas.gov/laws_and_rules_nursing_practice_act_2013.asp#Sec.304.001

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.texas.gov/pdfs/law_rules_pdfs/rules_regulations_pdfs/bon_rr_Feb2015.pdf