



What is an APRN? What are the APRN roles?

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are prepared with advanced knowledge, skills, and scope of practice in nursing as well as further didactic and clinical education. There are four recognized APRN roles. The four roles are clinical nurse specialist (CNS), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse midwife (CNM) and certified nurse practitioner (CNP).

Why should our state join the APRN Compact?

Dramatic changes are occurring in health care delivery. It is common for patients to travel across state lines for health care and APRNs often provide care across state borders both physically and electronically. The single state license (one license for every state in which the APRN practices) is not economical for APRNs or employers. The current licensure model limits the mobility of APRNs and therefore the access to care for patients. In addition, the current model requires APRN educators who teach online students across the country to hold multiple licenses—one license for each state their students log on from. The 100-year-old licensure model needs updating, and the APRN Compact offers an innovative and safe approach that is in lockstep with 21st century health care.

How does the APRN Compact benefit our state?

- Creates a model that allows APRNs to practice freely among member states while still allowing each state to retain autonomy and the authority to enforce its state nurse practice act.
- Improves access to licensed APRNs during a disaster or other times of great need for qualified advanced nursing services.
- Benefits military spouses with APRN licenses who often relocate every two years.
- Grants the necessary legal authority to facilitate interstate information sharing and investigations in the event of adverse actions to ensure public protection.
- Eliminates duplicative regulatory processes and unnecessary, burdensome fees.

How does the APRN Compact increase access to care?

Telehealth has revolutionized the way providers are able to care for their patients, making care more convenient and accessible than ever before. The APRN Compact will remove the licensure barrier to telehealth practice for APRNs. The APRN Compact will also allow APRNs bordering rural areas in neighboring states to more easily provide care for those patients.

How does the APRN Compact keep patients safe?

All APRNs practicing under a multistate license must meet the uniform licensure requirements adopted by the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators. These requirements will be based on the highest regulatory standards for licensed health care professionals. The compact requires a multistate license-holding APRN to practice in the same role and population focus as the APRN is licensed in their home state. APRNs who fail to meet the uniform licensure requirements will not be eligible for a multistate license, and multistate privileges will be removed from an APRN when disciplinary actions are taken against their home state multistate license. Additionally, as a requirement for issuance of a multistate license, the APRN must submit to a federal fingerprint criminal background check.



How does prescriptive authority work under the APRN Compact?

An APRN granted prescriptive authority for non-controlled prescription drugs in their home state will be authorized to prescribe non-controlled substances in any party state. An APRN may only prescribe controlled substances in a party state in accordance with the requirements imposed by that party state.

How does independent practice work under the APRN Compact?

An APRN with a multistate license is authorized to assume responsibility and accountability for patient care independent of a supervisory or collaborative relationship with a physician. This privilege extends to both the APRN's home state and any party state where the APRN has a multistate licensure privilege.

Why is this idea coming forward now?

Health care compacts are not a new idea. The Nurse Licensure Compact has been in existence for more than 15 years, with 25 participating states, and has proven safe and effective. In 2014, state boards of nursing approved the adoption of the APRN Compact. The APRN Compact will facilitate cross-border practice of advanced practice nursing, whether physically or via telehealth. The APRN Compact puts critical systems in place that help keep patients safe.

How does the APRN Compact support states' rights?

A state entering the APRN Compact will maintain its standards, scope of practice, and discipline procedures for APRNs. The APRN Compact is the best way to regulate the practice of advanced nursing while facilitating interstate practice and allowing each state to have jurisdiction over remote state APRNs practicing within the state.

What is the fiscal impact on my state by joining the APRN Compact?

There will be a nominal annual fee for APRN Compact membership, though the overall fiscal impact of the APRN Compact varies from state to state. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) offers states grants of financial assistance to help offset the expense of joining and implementing the APRN Compact. NCSBN will also fund the operational expenses of the compact governing body, the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators.

Does our state belong to any other compacts like this?

Each state is already a member of an average of 25 interstate compacts with the number of health care professional compacts growing. In 2015, the advent of new interstate licensure compacts for physicians, emergency medical technicians, psychologists and therapists began with many states introducing legislation regarding these compacts.