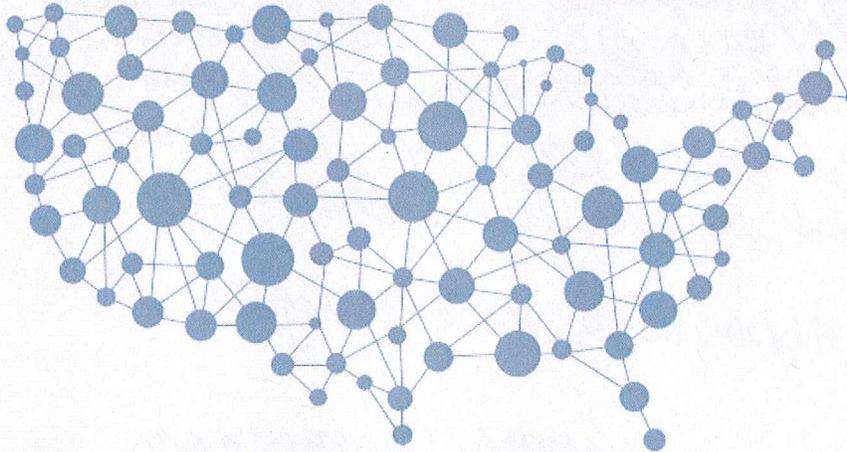


MOVING FORWARD WITH AN

**ENHANCED NLC** 



# NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

## What is the NLC?

- An interstate compact—a statutory agreement between two or more states
- Allows nurses to have one multistate license
- Permits nurses to practice in other member states, subject to each state's practice laws
- Iowa is one of 25 states that are current members of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)
- Operational and successful for over 15 years

## The ENHANCED NLC

- The **ENHANCED NLC** is an updated version of the *current* NLC
- **GOAL: To have ALL 50 states become members of the compact**
- Uniform licensure requirements for all states
- The practice of nursing takes place in the state where the **patient** resides
- Nurses have ability to practice in multiple states with one license
- **REDUCES** regulatory requirements by eliminating the necessity to obtain a license in each state
- **INCREASES** access to care while maintaining public protection
- **CLARIFIES** a nurse's authority to practice in multiple states via telehealth
- **ALLOWS** nurses to quickly cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a disaster
- **REMOVES** burdensome expenses for both nurses and the organizations that employ them
- **PROVIDES** member states the authority to facilitate a discipline case across state lines

**SUPPORT THE ENHANCED NLC FOR IOWA**

**IOWA IS PART OF  
THE CURRENT  
COMPACT, WHY  
WOULDN'T IT BE  
PART OF THE  
ENHANCED?**

To learn more visit: <https://nursing.iowa.gov>

## APRN COMPACT

111 E. Wacker Drive, Ste. 2900, Chicago, IL 60601  
312.525.3600 [aprncompact.com](http://aprncompact.com)

### Issue

Modern health care delivery requires that advanced practice registered nursing care, today and in the future, be dynamic and fluid across state boundaries. The 100-year-old model of nursing licensure is not flexible, adaptable or nimble enough to best meet this need.

### Solution

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact (APRN Compact) increases access to care while maintaining public protection at the state level. The APRN Compact allows for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to have one multistate license in their home state, with the privilege to practice in other APRN Compact states. The APRN Compact was approved in 2015 by state boards of nursing, and was introduced in state legislatures for the first time in the 2016 legislative session.

### Benefits of the APRN Compact

- Increases access to care by enabling APRNs to serve patients in rural areas across state boundaries.
- Enables APRNs to practice in person or provide care via telehealth to patients located across the country without having to obtain additional licenses.
- Allows APRNs to quickly cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a disaster.
- Facilitates telehealth and online APRN education.
- Cost Effective
  - APRNs do not have to obtain additional licenses, making practicing across state borders both affordable and convenient.
  - The compact benefits health care delivery organizations that employ APRNs and often share in the expenditure and maintenance of multiple state licenses.

### Safe and Efficient

- Facilitates the states' responsibility to protect the public health and safety by:
  - Promoting uniform licensure requirements to ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states.
  - Facilitating the exchange of information between party states in the areas of APRN regulation and investigation whenever an issue arises.
  - Ensuring that party states have the authority to hold an APRN accountable in meeting state practice laws in the state where the patient is located during the time of care.
- Encourages efficiency in the 100-year-old licensure model by:
  - Decreasing redundancies in both the consideration and issuance of APRN licenses.
  - Promoting and encouraging interstate practice by APRNs.

### A Modern Nurse Licensure Solution for the 21st Century

The APRN Compact increases access to health care, protects patient safety and reduces costs while supporting state-of-the-art health care delivery—for today and in the future. To join the APRN Compact, states need to enact the APRN Compact model legislation and implement a federal criminal background check for APRN licensure.



Unlocking Access to Advanced Practice Nursing Care Across the Nation



**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.



## NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

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### Issue

Modern health care delivery requires that nursing care, today and in the future, be dynamic and fluid across state boundaries, but the 100 year-old model of nurse licensure is not flexible, adaptable nor nimble enough to best meet this need.

### Solution

The enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) increases access to care while maintaining public protection at the state level.

- The enhanced NLC, which is an updated version of the current NLC, allows for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) to have one multistate license, with the privilege to practice in their home state and other NLC states.
- There are 25 member states in the current NLC.

### Benefits of the NLC

- Enables nurses to practice in person or provide telehealth nursing services to patients located across the country without having to obtain additional licenses.
- Allows nurses to quickly cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a disaster.
- Facilitates telenursing and online nursing education.
- Cost Effective
  - Nurses do not have to obtain an additional nursing license(s), making practicing across state borders affordable and convenient.
  - The compact removes a burdensome expense not only for nurses, but also organizations that employ nurses and may share the expenditure of multiple licenses.

### Proven, Safe and Efficient

- The NLC has been operational and successful for more than 15 years.
- All the safeguards that are built into the current state licensing process are required before a nurse is issued a multistate license.
- The NLC has uniform licensure requirements so that all states can be confident the nurses practicing within the NLC have met a set of minimum requirements, regardless of the home state in which they are licensed.
- Less than 1 percent of U.S. nurses ever require discipline by a board of nursing (BON), but if discipline is needed, swift action can be taken by the BON regardless of the state where the nurse is licensed or practices. When a nurse is disciplined, the information is placed into the national licensure database, [nursys.com](http://nursys.com).
- All states that participate in the enhanced NLC conduct federal criminal background checks to determine eligibility for a multistate license.

### A Modern Nurse Licensure Solution for the 21st Century

The enhanced NLC increases access to health care, protects patient safety and reduces costs while supporting state-of-the-art health care delivery – for today and in the future.

To join the NLC, states need to enact the enhanced NLC model legislation and implement a federal criminal background check system for nurse licensure.



Unlocking Access to Nursing Care Across the Nation

# Key Provisions of the Enhanced NLC



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Key policy changes from the current NLC are bolded.

## Article I Findings and Declaration of Purpose

- Facilitate the states' responsibility to protect the public's health and safety;
- Ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;
- Facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the areas of nurse regulation, investigation and adverse actions;
- Promote compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each jurisdiction;
- Invest all party states with the authority to hold a nurse accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of party state licenses;
- Decrease redundancies in the consideration and issuance of nurse licenses; and
- Provide opportunities for interstate practice by nurses who meet uniform licensure requirements.

## Article II Definitions

Reference model legislation at [nursecompact.com](http://nursecompact.com).

## Article III General Provisions and Jurisdiction

- **Eligibility and uniform licensure requirements for a multistate license**
- Authority to take adverse action against a multistate licensure privilege with application of state due process laws
- Nurse compliance with state practice laws
- Exclusion of advanced practice nurses (APRNs). There is a separate compact for APRNs called the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact.
- **Grandfathering provision**

## Article IV Applications for Licensure in a Party State

- Required verification of licensure information via the coordinated licensure information system
- Limitation to one home state license
- Outlines process for change of primary residence/home state

## Article V Additional Authorities Invested in Party State Licensing Boards

- Provides authority to
  - Take adverse action against a multistate licensure privilege
  - Allow states to revoke a nurse's privilege to practice when a nurse is under investigation
  - Issue subpoenas
  - **Obtain and submit criminal background checks**
- Requires deactivation of multistate licensure privileges when license encumbered

Unlocking Access to Nursing Care Across the Nation

# FAQs: The Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact What Policymakers Need to Know



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## Why should our state join the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)?

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

## How does the NLC benefit our state?

- Creates a model that allows nurses to practice freely among member states while still allowing states to retain autonomy and the authority to enforce the state nurse practice act.
- Eliminates redundancy, duplicative regulatory processes and unnecessary fees.
- Improves access to licensed nurses during a disaster or other times of great need for qualified nursing services.
- Benefits military spouses with nursing licenses who often relocate every two years.

## How does the NLC keep patients safe?

**All nurses practicing under a multistate license must meet a minimum set of licensure requirements, including a fingerprint federal criminal background check.** These requirements are based on the highest regulatory standards for licensed health care professionals. Nurses who fail to meet these requirements will not be eligible for a multistate license, and multistate privileges will be removed from nurses when disciplinary actions are taken against a home state multistate license.

## Who supports the NLC and why?

In a nationwide survey (2014), 70 percent of nurses support their state joining the NLC. The NLC has removed barriers and impediments to borderless practice. State hospital associations and health care facilities in every state support the NLC, as well as numerous nursing organizations.

## Why is this idea coming forward now?

The NLC is not a new idea. It has been in existence for 15 years, with 25 participating states, and has proven itself effective and safe. Recently all state boards of nursing met to add enhancements to the NLC to make it safer and better than ever.

## How does the NLC support states' rights?

While the NLC has a minimum set of licensure requirements that all nurses must meet before obtaining a multistate license, a state entering the NLC still maintains its standards, scope of practice and discipline procedures. The NLC is the best way to regulate the practice of nursing while facilitating interstate practice and allowing each state to have jurisdiction over remote state nurses practicing within the state.