



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 currently 25 member states in the 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.
- 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.
- Although less than 1 percent of U.S. nurses ever require discipline by a board of nursing (BON), in the rare event of any disciplinary issues, swift action can be taken by the BON regardless of the state where the nurse is licensed or practices. If a nurse is disciplined, the information is placed into the national database, Nursys®.

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 conduct a federal criminal background check of their nurses.



Unlocking Access to Nursing Care Across the Nation

