

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-EXEC).

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face twice a year.

NLCA Mid Year Meeting:

The NLCA met in Chicago prior to the NCSBN Mid Year meeting on March 13, 2011. The agenda included amendments to the Articles of Organization, including legal review; a presentation by attorney Richard Masters on "The Compact as a Contract and the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact of 1998"; implementation of the new NCSBN Substance Use Disorder Guidelines; and various committee reports. The Executive Director is currently co-chairing the Compliance Committee which is developing a self audit of compliance for each Compact state. This document is expected to be considered for approval by the NLCA at its August 2011 meeting.

NLCA EXEC Meeting

The NLCA EXEC met April 11, 2011 via conference call. The agenda consisted of revisions to the Secretariat Agreement between NLCA and NCSBN; review of progress on the Strategic Plan; and proposed revisions to NLCA policies.

APRN Compact

The APRN Compact was adopted in 2002. Although passed by the states of Texas, Utah, and Iowa after that date, this Compact has not yet been implemented. The primary reason for the delay was the differences in state licensure requirements across the nation. In the past few years, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) participated in national discussions to develop uniform requirements for APRNs resulting in the publication of the *Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education*. The Consensus Model creates a foundation of uniformity for the APRN Compact.

Recently these states met to consider changes to the APRN Compact to make it consistent with the *Consensus Model*. These states are consulting a legal expert in compact law to advise the states on these provisions.

The APRN Compact, found at Tx. Occ. Code, Chapter 305, states in pertinent part:

Sec. 305.003. Rules; Expiration of Chapter.

(a) The Texas Board of Nursing may adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter.

(b) If the board does not adopt rules to implement the compact under this chapter before December 31, 2011, the board may not implement the NCSBN APRN Compact and this chapter expires December 31, 2011.

Because a new Compact is being considered, the new Compact would need to be introduced in a future legislative session.

Participating States

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 24 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

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>