

## **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 Executive Committee Meeting**

The NLCA EXEC met January 11, 2011 at a face to face meeting in San Diego preceding the APRN Summit. The agenda consisted of a review of progress in meeting the outcomes, objectives, and tactics of the strategic plan for 2011 - 2015; discussion of changes to the Articles of Organization and policies and procedures; proposed changes to the APRN Compact; and planning for a symposium for all states on the first 10 years of experience with the Nurse Licensure Compact. Changes to the NLC Articles and policies must be approved by the full NLCA and changes to the APRN Compact are being discussed with the involved states.

### **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 creates an environment supportive of implementation of 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 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>