

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.

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face at least twice a year. The last face to face meeting of the NLCA took place on March 10, 2013 in San Jose, CA.

APRN Compact

The Executive Officers and legal counsel of states who have passed the APRN Compact and states interested in joining the APRN Compact has been meeting since April 2012 to draft a new APRN Compact, rules and Uniform Licensure Requirements to conform to the national APRN Consensus Model

https://www.ncsbn.org/Consensus_Model_for_APRN_Regulation_July_2008.pdf

and to add enforcement and rule making provisions to strengthen the Compact. The Texas Compact Administrator presented the draft APRN Compact to the NLCA at the March Mid Year meeting. The NLCA voted to support moving forward. The Compact will be presented next to the EO Summit in June.

An Updated History of the APRN Compact can be found at the following link.

[https://www.ncsbn.org/APRN_Compact_hx_timeline_April_2012_\(2\).pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/APRN_Compact_hx_timeline_April_2012_(2).pdf)

Compliance Committee

The Texas Compact Administrator chairs the Compliance Committee. The committee presented a Compliance policy to the NLCA at the Mid Year meeting and it was approved. The Committee is working with Nursys staff to develop an audit process through the new ROMS data base which is expected to be beta tested in 3014.

Growth of the NLC

Nurse Licensure Compact legislation is pending this year in Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Illinois. One of the frequent objections to the Compact is absence of Criminal Background Check Requirements by some Compact states. Currently 19 of the 24 Compact states have implemented federal and state Criminal Background Checks. Adoption of CBCs is a goal for all Compact states in the Strategic Plan. Please see agenda item 1.1 which

includes a resolution on criminal background checks for nurse licensees by the Council of State Governments.

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.

Pending NLC Legislation

Bills have been introduced this year in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana.

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>