

Nurse Licensure Compact

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) increases access to care while maintaining public protection at the state level. Under the NLC, nurses can practice in other NLC states/territories, without obtaining additional licenses. Nurses practicing under the NLC are subject to the nurse practice act, laws, and regulations of the state in which the patient is located. New applicants residing in Compact states will need to meet requirements as outlined in The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators, Final Rules.

The APRN Compact allows an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to hold one multistate license with the ability to practice in all APRN Compact states. The APRN Compact will be implemented when seven (7) states have enacted the legislation.

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA):

- Supports the Nurse Licensure Compact and APRN Compact.
- Supports nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training and serve patients who are located in other states.
- Respects each state's licensure requirements. Nurses are responsible to educate themselves and comply with the regulations of the state(s) in which they practice.
- Supports Compact states to adopt the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Uniform Licensure Requirements (ULRs). Uniformity of nursing licensure requirements facilitates adoption of the Compact by the legislators of non-Compact states.
- Supports advocating, in non-Compact states, for inclusion in the NLC and APRN Compact through their state boards of nursing and legislators.
- Supports the work of The National Council of State Boards of Nursing on a similar compact for APRNs.

Background and Rationale

The changing landscape of health care delivery requires services to be provided in an integrated and coordinated manner, particularly when the services are provided to individuals with complex, chronic, and costly medical conditions. The ability to provide nursing care, either in-person or via telehealth is critical to improving outcomes and reducing costs. In addition, the NLC is an essential resource for states during emergencies or during public health crises. The NLC and APRN Compact improves mobility and, hence, opportunities for employment. In response to a disaster, the rapid deployment of qualified nurses is critical to the provision of care, particularly when nursing services involve specialized care, such as nephrology nursing. Although some states offer an expedited licensure process during times of an emergency declaration, it is not sufficient, resulting in delays in care when it is needed most.

References

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The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators Final Rules (2024). Retrieved from https://www.nursecompact.com/files/nlc_rules_2024.pdf .

Uniform Licensure Requirements (nd). Retrieved from <https://www.ncsbn.org/nursing-regulation/licensure/uniform-licensure-requirements.page>.

***Adopted by the ANNA Board of Directors in March 2014
Revised and/or reaffirmed biennially from 2015-2021
Most recently revised: April 2025***

ANNA Position Statements are reviewed and reaffirmed biennially.