What is the Nurse Licensure Compact?

- The NLC is an interstate compact.
  - It allows a nurse to have one multistate license (in primary state of residency)
  - This permits the nurse to practice in other member states (both physically and via telecommunications) subject to each state's practice laws.
What is an Interstate Compact?

- A contract (statutory agreement) between two or more party states

Mutual Recognition Model of Licensure

The NLC is modeled after the driver’s license compact which follows the mutual recognition model of licensure.
NLC Benefits for Telehealth

- Nurses can practice in multiple states with one license
- Increases patient access to care
- Enables care continuity for patients regardless of their location
NLC Benefits for Nurses

- Ability to practice in multiple states with one license
- Reduces regulatory requirements by removing necessity for obtaining a license in each state
- Clarifies a nurse’s authority to practice in multiple states via telehealth

NLC Benefits for Nursing Boards

- Ability to share complaint and investigative information
- Multiple states working together to assure patient safety
- Ability to locate, isolate or limit ability to practice on Privilege to Practice
- Reduces duplicative board actions
- Uniform statutes, rules and policies applicable to and enforceable upon all compact states
Historical Perspective of the NLC

- 1997: Endorsed mutual recognition model; Approved NLC
- 1999: First state passes NLC legislation
- 2000-2010: 24 states enact NLC
- 2015: Montana is 25th state to enact NLC, effective Oct. 1
Some Drivers of Change

- Telehealth services are erasing geographic boundaries
- Other health care professions developing interstate licensure compacts (medicine, physical therapy, EMS, psychology)

NCSBN’s Response to Change

- 2013-2014: NCSBN members convene a series of meetings to consider best possible licensure model
  - Decision made to revise the NLC
- 2014-2015: NLC is redrafted as a new compact
Why Did We Pursue Enhancing the NLC?

- Several states expressed concerns that they couldn’t join current NLC for various reasons
- Current NLC states wanted to ensure long-term growth and viability of the NLC
- Need for facilitating interstate nursing practice continues to grow

What Does it Take to Join?

- A state must enact the enhanced NLC model language into law
- A state must have the ability to conduct a federal criminal background check (CBC) of a nurse upon initial licensure or licensure by endorsement
Opposition to CBCs in Maine?

Prevalence of CBCs
Why Should Maine Conduct Biometric-based CBCs?

- Public Protection
  - Make an informed decision about licensure
- Effectiveness
  - Obtain thorough information on applicants
A Few Examples in Other States

- Since implementing biometric-based CBCs in Kansas, 14.5% of the applicants had a criminal history.
  - 29% failed to self-disclose
- In Louisiana study of nursing students, 14.7% had criminal history
  - 18.2% failed to self-disclose
- Texas study
  - Before - 35
  - After - 262

Arizona State Board of Nursing
Positive Criminal History Investigative Outcomes Pre/Post
Fingerprinting Legislation

[Bar chart showing data for Arizona State Board of Nursing]
Key New Provisions in the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact

What’s New?

- Uniform licensure requirements
- Grandfathering provision
- Authority to obtain and submit criminal background checks (CBCs)
- Provides for rulemaking by the Commission
- Prompt reporting to Nursys® of participation in alternative to discipline programs
Uniform Licensure Requirements

To receive a multistate license, a nurse must:
- Meet the home state’s qualifications
- Graduate from qualifying education program
- Pass the NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® exam (or predecessor)

To receive a multistate license, a nurse must:
- Have no active discipline on a license
- Submit to a criminal background check and have no prior state or federal felony convictions
- Not be currently enrolled in an alternative program
- Have a valid U.S. Social Security number
Grandfathering

- A nurse holding a home state multistate license on the compact’s effective date may retain and renew the license

What if Maine Does Not Join the Enhanced NLC?
Effective Date

- Does not become effective until the earlier of enactment by 26 states or Dec. 31, 2018
- Multistate licenses issued under the current NLC will still be recognized by party states in the enhanced NLC for six months after that compact’s effective date.

NLC supporters across the U.S.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air &amp; Surface Transport Nurses Association</th>
<th>American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing</th>
<th>American Association of Colleges of Nursing</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Association of Neuroscience Nurses</td>
<td>American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)</td>
<td>American Association of Poison Control Centers</td>
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<td>American Nephrology Nurses Association</td>
<td>American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)</td>
<td>American Telemedicine Association (ATA)</td>
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<td>Association of Camp Nurses</td>
<td>Association for Vascular Access</td>
<td>Case Management Society of America (CMSA)</td>
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<td>Center for Telehealth and E-Health Law</td>
<td>CGFNS International, Inc.</td>
<td>Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC)</td>
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<td>Commission for Case Manager Certification</td>
<td>Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)</td>
<td>Health IT Now</td>
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<td>National Governors Association Center for Best Practices</td>
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<td>Oncology Nursing Society</td>
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<td>Telehealth Leadership Council</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Commerce</td>
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Advocacy website
–www.nursecompact.com
  • Fact Sheet
  • FAQs for Policymakers
  • Letters to Governor, legislators

Thank you!

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