Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact
Licensure Solution for Interstate Nursing Practice

Summit of the States
December 7, 2018
Currently 29 States in Which a Nurse with a Multistate License can Practice
Which Model of Nurse Licensure is Best for the 21st Century?

• Practice is not bound by state lines
  • Telehealth practice knows no boundaries
  • Patients receive care in other states and return to their home
  • Nurses are increasingly mobile
Which Licensure Model was Chosen?

Mutual Recognition
Primary Concepts

• Nurse is issued a multistate license in the declared primary state of residence (PSOR) known as the home state

• Nurse holds only one multistate license issued by the home state

• Nurse has a multistate licensure “privilege to practice” in other Compact states (remote states)
Why Was This Model Chosen?

- Licensure remains state-based
- The license will be nationally recognized
- Enforcement is authorized locally.
- Efficiency: one application process; meet renewal requirements in the home state
- Economical: pay fees only in the home state
How We Got to Where We are Today

- **Original NLC** is the compact that began in 2000
  - 25 member states
  - dissolved 7/18/18

- **Enhanced NLC (eNLC)**
  - Updated version adopted 2015
  - Implemented Jan 19, 2018
Why Did We Pursue Enhancing the NLC?

- Several states expressed concerns that they couldn’t join current NLC for various reasons, including lack of criminal background check requirements in original NLC
- Current NLC states wanted to ensure long-term growth and viability of the NLC
- Need for facilitating interstate nursing practice continues to grow
License Portability and Nurse Mobility are Enhanced by Multistate Licensure

- Telehealth practice (call center, triage, case managers, etc)
- Disaster recovery assistance
- Military spouse relocation; military moonlighting or training in civilian facilities
- Nursing faculty engaged in distance education
- Access for rural populations and healthcare shortage areas
- Facility staffing: travel nursing
- Home health and hospice
- Transport nursing
- Nurses residing near borders and practicing in an adjacent state.
Today’s millennials want mobility and maximized benefits.
Nursing students overwhelmingly say that they plan to live and work in a NLC state rather than a non-NLC state, post-graduation.

When a nurse holds a multistate license and is being recruited by an employer in another NLC state, the nurse can be available to the prospective employer immediately since the nurse already has the authority to practice in that state.
Benefits for Boards of Nursing

• Authority to share complaint and investigative information throughout the investigative case
• Shared responsibility for patient safety not governed by geographical boundaries
• Shared commitment to improving our collective ability to protect patients, i.e., multiple states working together to assure patient safety
• Authority to limit remote state nurse practice privileges
• Reduces duplicative board actions
• Uniform statutes, rules and policies applicable and enforceable to all compact states
Public Protection Benefits

• Requirements of member states:
  – conduct state and federal criminal background checks at initial and license by endorsement.
  – fully participate in Nursys
  – share licensee investigation & disciplinary information with other member states
  – indicate in Nursys: participation in alternative programs & significant investigations.
• Nurses under discipline or in an alternative program (ATD) have multistate privileges removed.
• Nurses not meeting Uniform Licensure Requirements are not eligible for multistate license but may qualify for a single state license.
• Nurses with a felony conviction are not eligible for a multistate license.
• Compact state may take adverse action against the multistate privilege to practice in that compact state.
Thank you!

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