About
The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) increases access to care, protects patient safety and reduces costs while supporting state-of-the-art health care delivery. The NLC allows registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) to have one multistate license, with the privilege to practice in their home state and other NLC states without obtaining additional licenses.

Proven, Safe and Efficient
• The NLC has been operational and successful for more than 20 years and continues to grow each year with the addition of new states.
• All the safeguards that are built into the current state licensing process are required before a nurse is issued a multistate license.
• The NLC has uniform licensure requirements so that all states can be confident that new nurses practicing within the NLC have met a set of minimum requirements, regardless of the home state in which they are licensed.
• All states that participate in the NLC conduct federal criminal background checks to determine eligibility for a multistate license.

Benefits of the NLC
• Access to Care: Expands access to nursing services across the country quickly and efficiently, which is essential for the health of many underserved communities.
• Telehealth: Enables nurses to practice in person or provide telehealth nursing services to patients located across the country without having to obtain additional licenses.
• Disaster/Pandemic Relief: Allows nurses to immediately cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, without the need to wait for a declaration of emergency.
• Military Families: Allows military spouse nurses to seamlessly continue working without having to obtain a new license each time they relocate.
• Online Education: Facilitates online nursing education by reducing educators’ need for multiple licenses.
• Cost Effective: Nurses do not have to obtain additional nursing licenses, making practicing across state borders affordable and convenient.
• Flexible Licensure: Allows nurses who are ineligible for a multistate license to still obtain a single-state license based on their state’s requirements and statutes.

Help Bring the NLC to your State
NurseCompact.com
Pending NLC States

Guam: Pending tentative implementation in 2023. Nurses holding a multistate license in other NLC states may now practice in Guam. Guam residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is complete.

Pennsylvania: NLC enacted July 1, 2021. An NLC implementation date is unknown at this time. Criminal background checks must also be implemented. The state is awaiting approval of criminal background checks from the FBI. PA residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in PA until implementation is complete.

Virgin Islands: NLC enacted Dec. 6, 2021. Pending tentative implementation in 2023. Criminal background checks must also be implemented. VI residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in the Virgin Islands until implementation is complete.

Washington: Nurses holding a multistate license in other NLC states may practice in in the state of Washington as of July 24, 2023. Washington residents cannot obtain a multistate license until NLC implementation is complete. It is anticipated that Washington will decide on an implementation date later in 2023. Once a date is known, this information will be updated and the date will be publicized.

Rhode Island: The NLC legislation became law on June 24, 2023.