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
41 states have enacted the NLC

Guam

For nurses who reside in NLC states other than Guam:
Nurses in other NLC states who hold an active multistate license may practice and provide nursing services in Guam in-person or via telehealth. These nurses, who also hold a Guam single state license, may stop renewing it.

For nurses who reside in Guam:
Guam residents cannot apply for a multistate license until full NLC implementation is completed. The date NLC implementation in Guam will be completed is unknown at this time. When an implementation date is known, it will be posted or publicized by the Guam Board of Nurse Examiners.

Pennsylvania

For nurses who reside in NLC states other than Pennsylvania:
Nurses in other NLC states who hold an active multistate license may practice and provide nursing services in Pennsylvania in-person or via telehealth. These nurses, who also hold a Pennsylvania single state license, may stop renewing it.

For nurses who reside in Pennsylvania:
Pennsylvania residents cannot apply for a multistate license until NLC full implementation is completed. The date NLC implementation in Pennsylvania will be completed is unknown. When an implementation date is known, it will be posted or publicized by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

Prior to implementing the NLC, the state must also implement federal criminal background check (CBC) processes. At this time, this process is delayed as Pennsylvania is waiting for the FBI to approve CBC laws and processes. Future status updates, when available, can be viewed on the NLC website.

Rhode Island

For nurses who reside in NLC states other than Rhode Island:
Nurses in other NLC states who hold an active multistate license may not practice in Rhode Island until implementation is completed.

For nurses who reside in Rhode Island:
Rhode Island residents cannot apply for a multistate license until NLC full implementation is completed. Rhode Island is tentatively planning to fully implement the NLC in January 2024.

US Virgin Islands (USVI)

For nurses who reside in NLC states other than the USVI:
Nurses in other NLC states who hold an active multistate license may not practice in the USVI until implementation is complete.

For nurses who reside in the USVI:
USVI residents cannot apply for a multistate license until NLC full implementation is completed. The date NLC implementation in USVI will be completed is unknown at this time. When an implementation date is known, it will be posted or publicized by the Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Licensure.

Washington

For nurses who reside in NLC states other than Washington:
Nurses in other NLC states who hold an active multistate license may practice and provide nursing services in Washington in-person or via telehealth. These nurses, who also hold a Washington single state license, may stop renewing it.

For nurses who reside in Washington:
Washington residents cannot apply for a multistate license until NLC full implementation is completed. The date NLC implementation in Washington will be completed is unknown at this time. When an implementation date is known, it will be posted or publicized by the Washington State Board of Nursing.