



**National Center for
Interstate Compacts**
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Interstate Compacts and Telehealth

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The Council of State Governments...

- Is a nonpartisan membership organization.
- Is composed of all 50 states, Washington D.C. and all five U.S. territories.
- Serves the three branches of state governments.

National Center for Interstate Compacts

- Serves as a technical assistance center in The Council of State Governments.
- Provides compact education, development and administration services.
- Works with:
 - Professional membership organizations.
 - Department of Defense.
 - Legislators.
 - Regulators.
 - Administrators.



What is an Interstate Compact?



Legislatively enacted agreement among states



Cooperatively addresses shared problems



Versatile and proven policy tool



Applicable across policy areas, including occupational licensure

Operationalized Licensure Compacts

- Emergency Medical Services Personnel
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Physical Therapists
- Physicians

Compacts Available to States

- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- Counseling
- Occupational Therapy

Compacts Under Development

- Cosmetology
- Dentistry and Dental Hygiene
- Dieticians and Nutritionists
- Massage Therapy
- Physicians
Assistants/Associates
- School Psychology
- Social Work
- Teaching

Compacts and Occupational Licensure

- Respond to states desire in recent years to:
 - Reduce the social costs of licensure.
 - Safeguard health and safety.
- Improve licensure portability.
- Negate the need for federal intervention.



Key Features

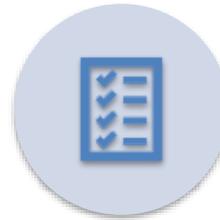
- Developed through a collaborative and transparent process.
- Establish uniform standards for participating states and licensees.
- Create a licensure data system.
- Administered by a compact commission.



Compact Benefits for Licensing Boards and Agencies



States retain control of scope of practice.



States retain control of initial licensure process.



Compacts facilitate the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information.



Compacts improve cooperation in regulating the profession.

Benefits for Practitioners



Authorizes practice in other member states



Improves licensure portability



Reduces effort needed to maintain individual state licenses



Takes advantage of new telehealth opportunities

Benefits for Consumers



Increases access to health care services, including through telehealth



Improves continuity of care



Promotes practitioner diversity



Increases access to specialists

State Participation in Licensure Compacts

Since January 2016, states have enacted 230+ separate pieces of licensure compact legislation.

Forty-five states, two territories and Washington D.C. have enacted at least one licensure compact.

Thirty-six states and Washington D.C. have enacted at least three licensure compacts.

Twenty states have enacted at least six licensure compacts.

Current Licensure Compacts

**Interstate Medical
Licensure Compact**

- 39 states

**Nurse Licensure
Compact**

- 39 states

**Physical Therapy
Compact**

- 34 states

**Psychologists
Compact**

- 34 states

**Audiology and
Speech-Language
Pathology Compact**

- 23 states

**Emergency Medical
Services Compact**

- 22 states

**Occupational
Therapy Compact**

- 22 states

Counseling Compact

- 17 states

**Advanced Practice
Registered Nurse
Compact**

- 3 states



Interstate Compact Models



Mutual
Recognition
(Multistate
License)

Mutual
Recognition
(Privilege to
Practice)

Expedited
Licensure

Telepsychology



Telehealth and Compacts: Providers

- Health care professionals often need licenses to practice in other states via telehealth, making it difficult to:¹
 - Consult on special cases
 - Educate other health care workers
 - Help resolve regional shortages
 - Emergency situations
- Because of the licensure issues that compacts help resolve, they can be used in combination with telehealth very effectively.

1. <https://www.ajmc.com/view/eliminating-barriers-to-virtual-care-implementing-portable-medical-licensure>



Telehealth and Compacts: Consumers

- Patient desire for telehealth is increasing¹—75% of patients indicate they want access to telehealth in order to:
 - Reduce travel burden.
 - Reduce concerns about stigma.
- Telehealth achieves positive results.
- Improved mobility for practitioners improves accessibility for consumers

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7577694/>

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