



Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association Position Statement

Mutual Recognition Model for Multi-State Licensure

Background

The practice of critical care transport often requires that transport nurses cross state borders to render patient care and provide transport. Many questions have been raised about the licensing and management of nursing practice in these situations. It is beneficial to both nurses and the transport programs in which they are employed to contact their respective state boards of nursing for legal counsel related to providing patient care in the multiple states in which the transport programs are based.

In 1996, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) began to explore the development of some form of multi-state licensure. A number of models were discussed; consensus eventually was achieved to support a compact model used by states to share goods and services. The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) was implemented in 2000, allowing nurses to obtain a license (in their state of residence or where they obtained their current license) and practice in other NLC states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state's practice laws and regulations.

To help streamline renewal processes and reduce application fees for nurses, as well as incorporate new standards not included in the original compact, the Enhanced Nursing Licensure Compact (eNLC) was enacted in 2017. In January 2018, new multi-state licenses were issued to all nurses who applied to transition from their previous NLC license. New nurses obtaining their first license still need to apply for a license via their state website but have the option to apply for the eNLC with their permanent address. These nurses can then practice in all eNLC states without delay. The NCSNB website (www.ncsbn.org) has a map of the United States that shows the eNLC status of all 50 states and US territories. Once a state joins the eNLC, that state's board of nursing contacts all nurses registered with the state. Nurses with NLC licenses should verify that their license is part of the eNLC. Nurses are responsible for providing a current address to their state board of nursing to determine compact license eligibility.

ASTNA Position

- ASTNA supports the eNLC, as it eliminates costly duplication of renewal efforts and registration fees caused by requiring transport nurses to obtain multiple licenses to practice in multiple states.
- ASTNA recognizes that members who practice in multiple states as a part of a transport program are responsible for obtaining and maintaining their eNLC license or an appropriate state license to practice; members are encouraged to obtain the support of their transport program in pursuing eNLC licenses.

Bibliography

Colduvell K. Updated map: Enhanced Nursing Licensure Compact (eNLC). <https://nurse.org/articles/enhanced-compact-multi-state-license-eNLC/>. Published April 2019. Accessed April 2019.

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