

Expanding Access, Protecting Patients: The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact



A new, *expedited pathway*
to medical licensure

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact offers a new, expedited pathway to licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states, increasing access to health care for patients in underserved or rural areas and allowing them to more easily connect with medical experts through the use of telemedicine technologies. Put simply, the Compact makes it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states. At the same time, the Compact strengthens public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary information. The Compact is being implemented by states across the nation, with others expected to adopt it soon.

How will the Compact work?

States participating in the Compact will formally agree to adopt common rules and procedures that will streamline medical licensure, thus substantially reducing the time it takes for physicians to obtain multiple state licenses. A Compact Commission will provide oversight and the administration of the Compact, creating and enforcing rules governing its processes. The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact will not supersede a state's autonomy and control over the practice of medicine, nor will it change a state's *Medical Practice Act*. Participating states will retain the authority to issue licenses, investigate complaints, and discipline physicians practicing in their state. The practice of medicine will continue to occur in the state where the patient is located.

What is driving the need for the Compact?

Among the issues driving the need for the Compact are physician shortages, the influx of millions of new patients into the health care system as a result of the *Affordable Care Act*, and the

growing need to increase access to health care for individuals in underserved or rural communities through the use of telemedicine. Proponents of telemedicine have often cited the time-consuming state-by-state licensure process required for multiple-license holders as a key barrier to telemedicine's growth — the Compact will help overcome this hurdle.

Who will be eligible to seek licensure through the Compact process?

To be eligible for entry into the Compact process, physicians will have to possess a full and unrestricted license in a Compact member state, be certified (or "grandfathered") in a medical specialty, have no history of being disciplined, penalized or punished by a court, a medical licensing agency or the Drug Enforcement Administration, and meet several other robust requirements. It is estimated that nearly 80% of the physician population licensed in the United States could be eligible for expedited licensure via the Compact.

How will a physician apply for expedited licensure through the Compact?

An eligible physician will designate a member state as the State of Principal Licensure and select the other member states in which a medical license is desired. Upon receipt of this verification in the additional Compact states, the physician will be granted a separate, full and unrestricted license to practice in each of those states.

Can a physician that is ineligible for, or does not want to participate in, the Compact still obtain multiple state licenses?

Yes. The Compact is voluntary for both states and physicians. Physicians who cannot or do not want to participate in the expedited licensure process facilitated by the Compact will still be able to seek additional licenses in those states where they desire to practice by applying through that state's traditional and existing licensure processes.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact **Legislative Overview** (As of November 2016)

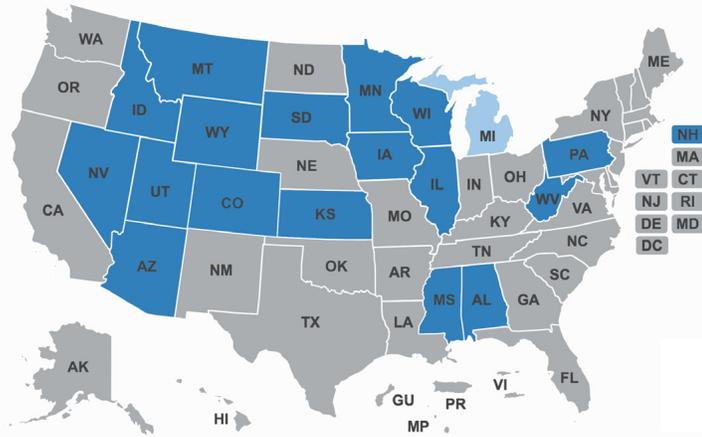
Enacted

Alabama
Arizona
Colorado
Idaho
Illinois
Iowa
Kansas
Minnesota
Mississippi
Montana
Nevada

New Hampshire
Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Utah
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

Active Legislation

Michigan



How can a state become a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact?

In order for a state to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, state legislatures must enact the Compact into state law. In September 2014, state medical and osteopathic medical board representatives, along with other stakeholders, completed the crafting of model legislation for the use of states interested in participating in the Compact. Since 2015, half of the states in the nation have either introduced or enacted the model legislation in their legislative chambers and more than 30 state medical and osteopathic boards have publicly expressed support for the Compact.

How many states have adopted the Compact?

As of November 2016, eighteen states have enacted the Compact legislation. By surpassing the minimum threshold of seven state enactments, the Compact is now officially established. This year, the Commission will determine the processes, rules and technical infrastructure necessary to facilitate the expedited licensing option available to qualified physicians in Compact member states. Additional Compact legislative introductions and enactments are expected in the future.

A practical and much needed solution

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact represents a nationwide solution built upon, and reinforcing, a system of state-based regulation proven to extend health care to the underserved, protect patients and help facilitate telemedicine in the United States. To learn more, please visit www.licenseportability.org.

Support is Growing

A growing list of organizations have publicly expressed support for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Among them are:

AARP

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education

American Academy of Dermatology

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American College of Physicians

American Medical Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Well

Ascension Health

Avera Health

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Council of Medical Specialty Societies

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

Gundersen Health System

Helmsley Charitable Trust Foundation

InSight Telepsychiatry

LocumTenens.com

Mayo Clinic

National Association Medical Staff Services

National Board Of Medical Examiners

National Stroke Association

Society of Hospital Medicine

State Hospital Associations

State Medical Associations

vRad

“If the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact were to move forward, it would herald a major reform in medical licensing.”

— Robert Steinbrook, MD, Yale School of Medicine



For more information on The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact go to licenseportability.org