

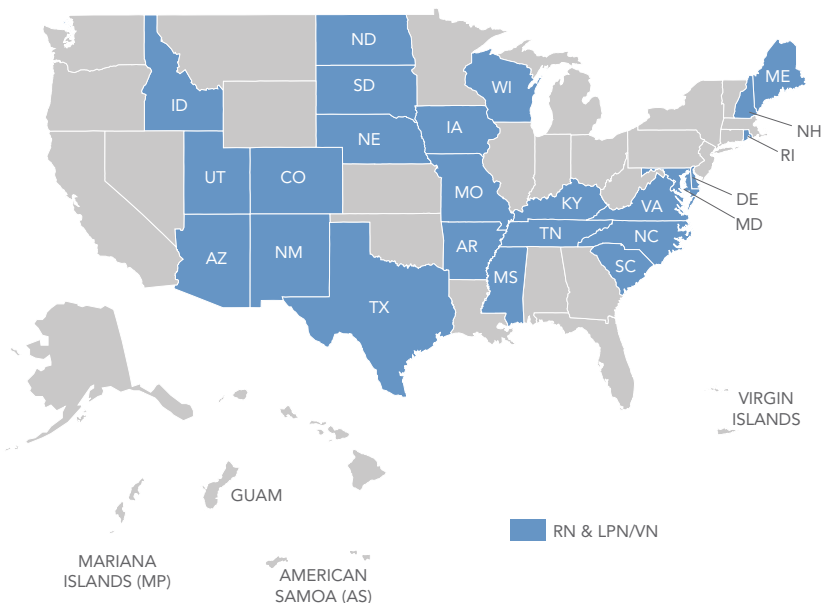


Background

- The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) allows a registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN) to have one multi-state license in a primary state of residency (the home state) and to practice in other compact states (remote states), while subject to each state's practice laws and discipline.
- The NLC allows a nurse to practice both physically and electronically across state lines unless the nurse is under discipline or restriction.
- Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are not included in this compact. APRNs must apply in each state in which they practice, unless exempted when employed in a federal facility.

Multistate and Single-state Licenses

- A nurse must legally reside in an NLC state to be eligible for issuance of a multistate license. In order to obtain a compact license, one must declare a compact state as the primary state of residency and hold a nursing license in good standing. There is not a separate application for obtaining a multi-state license.
- A nurse whose primary state of residence is a non-compact state is not eligible for a compact license.
- Upon being issued a compact (multistate) license, any additional active compact state licenses held are inactivated because a nurse can only hold one multistate license.
- A nurse licensed in a compact state must meet the licensure requirements in the home state. When practicing on a multistate privilege in a remote state, the nurse is accountable for complying with the Nurse Practice Act of that state.
- A nurse with an active compact (multistate) license wanting to practice in another compact state does not need to complete any applications nor pay any fees as the home state license is accepted as a privilege to practice in other compact states.
- A nurse who declares a noncompact state as the primary state of residence will be issued a single-state license.



- A nurse must hold a separate license in each noncompact state where practice privileges are desired.
- While under disciplinary action, multistate privileges may be removed and the nurse's practice may be restricted to the home state.
- The NCLEX® can be taken in any jurisdiction. However, graduates applying for a license, who legally reside in a compact state (the home state) can only apply to their home state board of nursing. This means that the applicant cannot apply for a compact license in a compact state other than the one in which he/she legally resides.



Requirements when Moving

- When a nurse moves from a compact state to a noncompact state to practice nursing, the compact license is changed to a single-state license and the nurse must apply for licensure by endorsement in the new state of residency.
- When a nurse declares a compact state as the primary state of residency, the nurse must apply for licensure by endorsement in the new state of residency.
- When a nurse changes primary state of residency by moving from one compact state to another compact state, the nurse can practice on the former residency license for up to 30 days. The nurse is required to apply for licensure by endorsement, pay any applicable fees and complete a declaration of primary state of residency in the new home state, whereby a new multistate license is issued and the former license is inactivated. Proof of residency may be required.
- Licensure renewal cycles vary state to state. Nurses are required to promptly declare a new state of residency when they obtain a new driver's license, change where federal taxes are paid or register to vote and not wait for their license to lapse or expire in the prior home state.
- A nurse on a visa from another country applying for licensure in a party state may declare either the country of origin or the party state as the primary state of residency. If the foreign country is declared the primary state of residency, a single-state license will be issued by the party state.

Definitions

- **Compact:** An interstate agreement between two or more states established for the purpose of remedying a particular problem of multistate concern. (Black's Law Dictionary)
- **Party or Compact State:** Any state that has adopted the NLC.
- **Home State:** The party state that serves as the nurse's primary state of residence.
- **Remote State:** A party state other than the home state where the patient is located at the time nursing care is provided or in the case of the practice of nursing not involving a patient, a party state where the recipient of nursing practice is located.
- **Primary State of Residence:** The state in which a nurse declares a principal residence for legal purposes.
- **Nursys®:** A database that contains the licensure and disciplinary information of all RNs and LPN/VNs as contributed by party states.