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Explanation of the Nurse Licensure Compact for Nurses Video Transcript ©2023 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

Presenter

NCSBN Nurse Licensure Compact Department

- [Presenter] The Nurse Licensure Compact and what new nurse graduates need to know. The Nurse Licensure Compact or NLC is an interstate agreement that allows RNs and LPNs to practice in all compact states with one multi-state license. This practice may be either in person or via telehealth.

It works a lot like a driver's license you can cross state lines knowing you have the authority to practice allowing you to easily provide care in compact States across the country just as you must follow the rules of the road in each state, you must adhere to the nurse Practice Act of each state where you provide care.

It's important to note the state you are considered practicing in is based on where the patient is located at the time care is delivered. So, if your patient is located in a non-compact state, you will still need a single state license there.

Since most U.S. jurisdictions are now members of the NLC, having a multi-state license means you can save money on fees, work in more places, easily provide care through telehealth, become a travel nurse, aid in disaster response and help underserved communities.

Your one Multistate license is issued from your primary state of residence. This is the state where you have your driver's license, are registered to vote or declare your federal taxes. You can only have one primary state of residence at a time.

If you change to another NLC State, you must apply for a license from the new state within 60 days of moving. If you change to a state that is not part of the NLC, you will need to obtain a license in that jurisdiction before you practice there.

To see the NLC States, please review the map at nursecompact.com.

To be eligible for a multi-state license your primary state of residents must be part of the NLC. You must meet 11 uniform licensure requirements, which are outlined in the license application, including being a licensed nurse having passed the NCLEX.

Speaking of the NCLEX you can only apply for licensure by exam in one state. Since the NCLEX is a national exam, you can take it anywhere Pearson VUE offers the exam even if that state or territory isn't

part of the NLC. And you do not have to retake the NCLEX to receive a multi-state license or if you move. If your current primary state of residence is a compact state, you may be eligible for a multi-state license.

To apply, you'll complete the licensure by examination application found on your state board of nursing's website. Fees and processing time will vary depending on the state. If you plan to have your home in a compact state, consider applying for licensure by examination in that state to save time and money.

You are not required to apply for your initial license in the state where your nursing education program is located unless you plan to live and work there. If you're still not sure where you should apply for licensure, the NCSBN Licensure Guidance Tool is a great resource that can be found at [ncsbn.org](https://www.ncsbn.org).

Once you have your multi-state license, it's helpful to visit nursys.com and sign up for enotify to receive free licensure renewal and Status notification emails. Nursys is the only National Database for secure nurse license information that comes directly from Boards of Nursing and where you can find your NCSBN ID. Your NCSBN ID is a unique nurse identifier a number that is unique to you like your social security number. It can be used quickly and easily to identify you throughout your career while protecting your personal private information. Every nurse should know their NCSBN ID.

A multi-state license can be vital for your nursing career. If your primary state of residence is not a member of the NLC, visit nursecompact.com to ask your legislators to bring the compact to your state. And if you still have questions on the NLC, you can find additional resources there.

We hope you now have a better understanding of the Nurse Licensure Compact.