



#### What is an APRN? What are the APRN roles?

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are prepared with advanced knowledge, skills, and scope of practice in nursing, as well as further didactic and clinical education. There are four recognized APRN roles: clinical nurse specialist (CNS), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse midwife (CNM) and certified nurse practitioner (CNP).

#### Why should our state join the APRN Compact?

Dramatic changes are occurring in health care delivery. It is common for patients to travel across state lines for health care and APRNs often provide care across state borders both physically and electronically. The single state license model (one license for every state in which the APRN practices) is not economical for APRNs or employers. The current system limits mobility of APRNs and access to care for patients. In addition, the current model requires APRN educators who teach online courses to hold multiple licenses. The current system slows down health care responses to natural disasters and other emergencies, and imposes unnecessary regulatory burdens on military spouses and their families. The 100-year-old licensure model needs updating, and the APRN Compact offers an innovative approach that is safe and in lockstep with 21st century health care.

#### How does the APRN Compact benefit our state?

- **Access to Care:** Increases access to APRN services across the country quickly and efficiently, which is essential for the health of many rural and underserved communities.
- **Telehealth:** Enables APRNs to practice in person or provide telehealth services to patients located across the country without having to obtain additional licenses.
- **Disaster Relief:** Allows APRNs to immediately cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, without the need to wait for a declaration of emergency.
- **Military Families:** Allows military spouse APRNs to seamlessly continue working without having to obtain a new license each time they relocate.
- **Online Education:** Facilitates online nursing education by reducing educators' need for multiple licenses.
- **Cost Effective:**
  - For APRNs: APRNs do not have to obtain additional nursing licenses, making practicing across state borders affordable and convenient.
  - For Employers: The APRN Compact also removes a burdensome expense for organizations that employ APRNs and may share the expenditure of multiple licenses.
- **Greater Efficiency:** Eliminates redundancy, duplicative regulatory processes and unnecessary fees.
- **Flexible Licensure:** Allows APRNs who are ineligible for a multistate license to still obtain a single state license based on their state's requirements and statutes.



### **How does the APRN Compact keep patients safe?**

All APRNs practicing under a multistate license must meet a minimum set of uniform licensure requirements as adopted by the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators, including a federal fingerprint criminal background check. These requirements will be based on the highest regulatory standards for licensed health care professionals. The compact requires a multistate license-holding APRN to practice in the same role and population focus that the APRN is licensed in their home state. APRNs who fail to meet the uniform licensure requirements will not be eligible for a multistate license, and multistate privileges will be removed from an APRN when disciplinary actions are taken against their home state multistate license.

### **How does prescriptive authority work under the APRN Compact?**

An APRN granted prescriptive authority for non-controlled prescription drugs in their home state will be authorized to prescribe non-controlled substances in any party state. An APRN may only prescribe controlled substances in a party state in accordance with the requirements imposed by that party state.

### **How does independent practice work under the APRN Compact?**

An APRN with a multistate license is authorized to assume responsibility and accountability for patient care independent of a supervisory or collaborative relationship with a physician. This privilege extends to both the APRN's home state and any party state where the APRN has a multistate licensure privilege.

### **Why is this idea coming forward now?**

Health care compacts are not a new idea. The Nurse Licensure Compact for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses has been in existence for over 18 years, and has been proven safe and effective. In 2015, state boards of nursing approved the adoption of the APRN Compact. The APRN Compact facilitates safe cross-border practice of advanced practice nursing, whether physically or via telehealth, and puts critical systems in place that will help keep patients safe.

### **What is the fiscal impact on my state by joining the APRN Compact?**

There will be a nominal annual fee for APRN Compact membership, though the overall fiscal impact of the APRN Compact is unique and varies from state to state. NCSBN offers states grants of financial assistance to help offset the expense of joining and implementing the APRN Compact. NCSBN will also fund the operational expenses of the compact governing body, the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators.

### **Does our state belong to any other compacts like this?**

Each state is already a member of an average of 25 interstate compacts with the number of health care professional compacts continuing to grow. In 2015, the advent of new interstate licensure compacts for other health care roles began, including compacts for physicians, emergency medical technicians, psychologists and physical therapists.