



**National Center for  
Interstate Compacts**  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

**Interstate Compacts and Telehealth**

**Dan Logsdon, Director of the National Center for Interstate  
Compacts  
The Council of State Governments**

# The Council of State Governments...

- Is a nonpartisan membership organization.
- Is composed of all 50 states, Washington D.C. and all five U.S. territories.
- Serves the three branches of state governments.

# National Center for Interstate Compacts

- Serves as a technical assistance center in The Council of State Governments.
- Provides compact education, development and administration services.
- Works with:
  - Professional membership organizations.
  - Department of Defense.
  - Legislators.
  - Regulators.
  - Administrators.



# What is an Interstate Compact?



Legislatively enacted agreement among states



Cooperatively addresses shared problems



Versatile and proven policy tool



Applicable across policy areas, including occupational licensure

# Operating Licensure Compacts

- Emergency Medical Services Personnel
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Physical Therapists
- Physicians

# Compacts Beginning Operations

- Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- Counseling
- Occupational Therapy

# Joint Data System Project

- Interstate Compact Data Systems
  - Most important component of the interstate compact
  - Makes possible the public protection aspects of the compact
  - Data system costs delay the benefits of the compact
- Commissions for OT, Audiology & SLP, Counseling
  - Joint agreement to build data system
  - Leveraging DoD Cooperative Agreement funds
  - DoD Compacts get “free” access
  - Significantly reduce time for compacts to begin operating



## Compacts Available to States\*

- Cosmetology
- Dentistry and Dental Hygiene
- Dietitians
- Massage Therapy
- Physicians Assistants/Associates
- Social Work
- Teaching
- School Psychologists
- APRN
- Respiratory Therapists\*



# Compacts and Licensure

- Respond to states desire in recent years to:
  - Reduce the social costs of licensure.
  - Safeguard health and safety.
- Improve licensure portability.
- Preserve state authority and negate the need for federal intervention.



# Key Features

- Developed through a collaborative and transparent process.
- Establish uniform standards for participating states and licensees.
- Create a licensure data system.
- Administered by a compact commission.

# Compact Benefits for Licensing Boards and Agencies



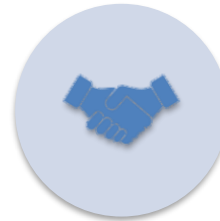
States retain control of scope of practice.



States retain control of initial licensure process.



Compacts facilitate the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information.



Compacts improve cooperation in regulating the profession.

# Benefits for Practitioners



Authorizes practice in other member states



Improves licensure portability



Reduces effort needed to maintain individual state licenses



Takes advantage of new telehealth opportunities

# Benefits for Consumers



Increases access to health care services, including through telehealth



Improves continuity of care



Promotes practitioner diversity



Increases access to specialists

# State Participation in Licensure Compacts

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Since January 2016, states have enacted 300+ separate pieces of licensure compact legislation.

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Forty-Seven states, two territories and Washington D.C. have enacted at least one licensure compact.

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Forty-One states and Washington D.C. have enacted at least three licensure compacts.

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Thirty-Three have enacted at least six licensure compacts.

# Current Licensure Compacts

**Interstate Medical  
Licensure Compact**

- 41 states

**Nurse Licensure  
Compact**

- 41 states

**Physical Therapy  
Compact**

- 37 states

**Psychologists  
Compact**

- 41 states

**Audiology and  
Speech-Language  
Pathology Compact**

- 30 states

**Emergency Medical  
Services Compact**

- 24 states

**Occupational  
Therapy Compact**

- 28 states

**Counseling Compact**

- 34 states

**Advanced Practice  
Registered Nurse  
Compact**

- 4 states



# Current Licensure Compacts

**Dentists / Dental Hygienists Compact**  
- 5 states

**Social Work Compact**  
- 2 states

**PA Compact**  
- 4 states

**Teacher Compact**  
- 12 states

**School Psychology**  
- 1 state

**Dietitians**

**Massage Therapy**  
- 1 state

**Cosmetology**  
- 3 states





# Interstate Compact Models



Mutual  
Recognition  
(Multistate  
License)

Mutual  
Recognition  
(Privilege to  
Practice)

Expedited  
Licensure

Telepsychology



# Telehealth and Compacts: Providers

- Health care professionals often need licenses to practice in other states via telehealth, making it difficult to:<sup>1</sup>
  - Consult on special cases
  - Educate other health care workers
  - Help resolve regional shortages
  - Emergency situations
- Because of the licensure issues that compacts help resolve, they can be used in combination with telehealth very effectively.

1. <https://www.ajmc.com/view/eliminating-barriers-to-virtual-care-implementing-portable-medical-licensure>

# Telehealth and Compacts: Consumers

- Patient desire for telehealth is increasing<sup>1</sup>—75% of patients indicate they want access to telehealth in order to:
  - Reduce travel burden.
  - Reduce concerns about stigma.
  - Wider variety of practitioners
- Telehealth achieves positive results.
- Improved mobility for practitioners improves accessibility for consumers

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7577694/>

# Resources

National Center for Interstate Compacts

<https://compacts.csg.org/>

Licensure Compact Websites:

<https://www.aprncompact.com/>

<https://counselingcompact.org/>

<https://ddhcompact.org/>

<https://psypact.org/>

<https://www.imlcc.org/>

<https://dietitianscompact.org/>



# Resources, cont.

Compact Websites:

<https://ptcompact.org/>

<https://www.nursecompact.com/>

<https://aslpcompact.com/>

<https://otcompact.org/>

<https://swcompact.org/>

<https://www.pacompact.org/>

<https://www.emscompact.gov/>



# Contact Information

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# Washington State Telehealth Collaborative



U.S. Department of Defense

**MILITARY  
STATE POLICY  
SOURCE**

# Washington State

## #7 Military Connected State in the Nation

### Health Related Occupational Licensure Compacts:

- Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology
- Dental and Dental Hygienist
- Licensed Professional Counseling
- Nurse Licensure
- Occupational Therapy Licensure
- Physical Therapy Licensure
- Physician Associates (new!)
- Psychology Interjurisdictional
- Interstate Medical Licensure
- Social Work Licensure Compact\*





# Why Licensure Matters



- **36%** of military spouses require an occupational license for employment
- **>20%** unemployment rate
- Licensure is primarily in two areas for military spouses healthcare and education.





## DoD-CSG Cooperative Agreement

- The Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 116–92, Section 575) authorized the Department of Defense to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments.
- Provides grants to occupations to develop occupational licensure compacts





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# Defense-State Liaison Office

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