The Nurse Licensure Compact
Unlocking Access to Nursing Care Across the Nation

FTC Roundtable
July 27, 2017

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
President
What is the Nurse Licensure Compact?

- The NLC is an interstate compact.
  - It allows a nurse to have one multistate license (in primary state of residency)
  - This permits the nurse to practice in other member states (both physically and electronically) subject to each state’s practice laws
Public Policy Goal

Nurse Licensure Compact

- A State-Based License
- Nationally Recognized
- Locally Enforced
NLC Benefits for Nurses

- Ability to practice in multiple states with one license
- Reduces regulatory requirements by removing necessity for obtaining a license in each state
- Clarifies a nurse’s authority to practice in multiple states via telehealth
Historical Perspective of the NLC/eNLC

- 1997: NCSBN endorsed mutual recognition model and approved NLC model language
- 2000-2015: 25 states enact NLC with only one state joining from 2010-2015
- 2014: Decision made to revise NLC
- 2014-2015: eNLC drafted and approved by NCSBN members
- 2016: eNLC first introduced & adopted by states
Why Did We Revise the NLC?

- Several states expressed concerns that they couldn’t join current NLC for various reasons
- Current NLC states wanted to ensure long-term growth and viability of the NLC
- Need for facilitating interstate nursing practice continues to grow
What’s New in the eNLC?

- Uniform licensure requirements
- Grandfathering provision
- Authority to obtain and submit criminal background checks (CBCs)
- Establishes Interstate Commission with rulemaking authority
eNLC Implementation

- The eNLC is effective at the earlier of 26 state enactments or December 31, 2018.
- Five new states have joined the eNLC that were not members of the original NLC.
- Multistate licenses issued under the original NLC will be recognized by party states in the eNLC for six months after that compact’s effective date.
- For the most up-to-date information about the eNLC, please visit nursecompact.com.
The APRN Compact

• Designed to mirror basic concepts of eNLC
• Mutual recognition model of licensure like NLC
• Available to all four roles of APRNs
• Complies with APRN Consensus Model
  – Full practice authority: practice independent of a supervisory or collaborative relationship with a physician
  – Prescriptive authority for legend drugs
• Compact in effect when adopted by 10 states
  – Adopted by ID, WY, and ND currently