

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

A QUALITY OF CARE AND REFORM ISSUE FOR MINNESOTA

Minnesota has the opportunity to join 24 other states, including all of the states bordering Minnesota, in adopting the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The NLC allows a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or vocational nurse to have one multi-state license in a primary state of residence (the home state) and to practice in other compact states (remote states), both physically and electronically, while subject to each state's practice laws and discipline. Minnesota nurses are currently restricted to practicing only in Minnesota, and Minnesota health providers are challenged in providing follow up care to patients from other states. **Minnesota is a national leader in health care delivery and an importer of health care spending, but to continue to provide high-quality care and remain competitive, Minnesota must adopt the NLC.**

Protections to Keep Standards High and Maintain State Authority

- **Nurses in all 50 states must still pass the NCLEX** (National Council Licensure Examination) and graduate from an accredited school of nursing (national accreditation) to obtain nurse licensure.
- Under the compact, **states maintain their right and authority to regulate nursing practices** within their borders. Each state enforces its own Nurse Practice Act and maintains a Board of Nursing.
- Every nurse practicing in a NLC member state **must comply with the practice laws of the state in which the patient is located** at the time care is rendered.

Removing a Barrier to Minnesota as a Leading Importer of Health Care Spending

- Due to the quality of health care providers in Minnesota, **we serve patients from throughout the Midwest, nationally and internationally** who come to Minnesota seeking treatment.
- **If we want to continue to draw patients to Minnesota, we need to remove barriers to providing follow-up care once they return home.** Adopting NLC will remove those barriers.

Improving Follow-Up Patient Care

- Health improvements in care delivery are moving patients out of acute care much sooner and back to their homes. **Providing follow-up care across state lines is a growing health care delivery requirement and factor in reducing re-admissions.**
- **Adopting the NLC will enable nurses to best care for patients long-term by enabling them to continue to care for non-resident patients, including Minnesota's snowbirds, from other NLC member states** who receive initial medical treatment in Minnesota and need care management that could be provided via the phone or internet.

Enhancing the Practice of Nursing

- Allowing nurses to work across state lines, NLC provides nurses with **greater career flexibility and enhances the value of their licenses, making them valid in more than one state.**
- NLC also **reduces nurses' compliance burdens and administrative costs** if they are forced to maintain multiple state licenses.

Blue states are current members of the Nurse Licensure Compact

