How will the Compact work?

States participating in the Compact will formally agree to adopt common rules and procedures that will streamline medical licensure, thus substantially reducing the time it takes for physicians to obtain multiple state licenses. A Compact Commission will provide oversight and the administration of the Compact, creating and enforcing rules governing its processes. The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact will not supersede a state’s autonomy and control over the practice of medicine, nor will it change a state’s Medical Practice Act. Participating states will retain the authority to issue licenses, investigate complaints, and discipline physicians practicing in their state. The practice of medicine will continue to occur in the state where the patient is located.

What is driving the need for the Compact?

Among the issues driving the need for the Compact are physician shortages, the influx of millions of new patients into the health care system as a result of the Affordable Care Act, and the growing need to increase access to health care for individuals in underserved or rural communities through the use of telemedicine. Proponents of telemedicine have often cited the time-consuming state-by-state licensure process required for multiple-license holders as a key barrier to telemedicine’s growth — the Compact will help overcome this hurdle.

Who will be eligible to seek licensure through the Compact process?

To be eligible for entry into the Compact process, physicians will have to possess a full and unrestricted license in a Compact member state, be certified (or “grandfathered”) in a medical specialty, have no history of being disciplined, penalized or punished by a court, a medical licensing agency or the Drug Enforcement Administration, and meet several other robust requirements. It is estimated that nearly 80% of the physician population licensed in the United States could be eligible for expedited licensure via the Compact.

How will a physician apply for expedited licensure through the Compact?

An eligible physician will designate a member state as the State of Principal Licensure and select the other member states in which a medical license is desired. Upon receipt of this verification in the additional Compact states, the physician will be granted a separate, full and unrestricted license to practice in each of those states.

Can a physician that is ineligible for, or does not want to participate in, the Compact still obtain multiple state licenses?

Yes. The Compact is voluntary for both states and physicians. Physicians who cannot or do not want to participate in the expedited licensure process facilitated by the Compact will still be able to seek additional licenses in those states where they desire to practice by applying through that state’s traditional and existing licensure processes.
The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Legislative Overview (As of May 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enacted</th>
<th>Introduced</th>
<th>Awaiting Governor Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Montana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How can a state become a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact?

In order for a state to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, state legislatures must enact the Compact into state law. In September 2014, state medical and osteopathic medical board representatives, along with other stakeholders, completed the crafting of model legislation for the use of states interested in participating in the Compact. Since 2015, half of the states in the nation have either introduced or enacted the model legislation in their legislative chambers and more than 30 state medical and osteopathic boards have publicly expressed support for the Compact.

How many states have adopted the Compact?

As of May 2016, sixteen states have enacted the Compact legislation. By surpassing the minimum threshold of seven state enactments, the Compact is now officially established. This year, the Commission will determine the processes, rules and technical infrastructure necessary to facilitate the expedited licensing option available to qualified physicians in Compact member states. Additional Compact legislative introductions and enactments are expected in the future.

A practical and much needed solution

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact represents a nationwide solution built upon, and reinforcing, a system of state-based regulation proven to extend health care to the underserved, protect patients and help facilitate telemedicine in the United States. To learn more, please visit www.licenseportability.org.

Support is Growing

A growing list of organizations have publicly expressed support for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Among them are:

- AARP
- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education
- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Physicians
- American Medical Association
- American Osteopathic Association
- American Well
- Ascension Health
- Avera Health
- Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
- Council of Medical Specialty Societies
- Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
- Guinn Center for Policy Priorities
- Gundersen Health System
- Helmsley Charitable Trust Foundation
- InSight Telepsychiatry
- LocumTenens.com
- Mayo Clinic
- National Association Medical Staff Services
- National Board Of Medical Examiners
- National Stroke Association
- Society of Hospital Medicine
- State Hospital Associations
- State Medical Associations
- vRad

“If the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact were to move forward, it would herald a major reform in medical licensing.”

— Robert Steinbrook, MD, Yale School of Medicine