



# The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact



The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is a new licensing option under which physicians seeking to practice in multiple states would be eligible for expedited licensure in all states participating in the interstate compact. Compacts are authorized in the United States Constitution as a means for states to address shared interests while allowing states to preserve their authority to license and regulate professional practices such as medicine. Seven states must enact the Interstate Compact to take effect. The Interstate Compact has broad support across Wisconsin's healthcare industry, including among health systems, hospitals, clinics and physicians.



## Main Principles of the Interstate Compact

- Participation in the interstate medical licensure compact will be strictly voluntary for both physicians and state boards of medicine.
- A state's participation in the interstate compact creates another pathway for licensure but does not otherwise change a state's existing Medical Practice Act.
- The practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located at the time of the physician-patient encounter and therefore requires the physician to be under the jurisdiction of the state medical board where the patient is located.
- The cost of a license issued under the interstate compact is covered by licensing fees of participating physicians.
- Regulatory authority will remain with the participating state medical boards and will not be delegated to any entity that would administer a compact.
- A physician practicing under an interstate compact is bound to comply with the statutes, rules and regulations of each compact state wherein he/she chooses to practice.
- Participating state boards are required to share disciplinary information of physicians licensed under the interstate compact with each other.



## Benefits of Wisconsin Joining the Interstate Compact

- Enhances Wisconsin's ability to attract high quality physicians to the state by streamlining the licensure process.
- Improves patient access to healthcare by reducing processing time of Wisconsin licenses of physicians licensed in other states.
- Ensures Wisconsin is in the first wave of states joining so the state is represented by the founding Commission that will administer the Interstate Compact and write initial rules.
- Wisconsin can be among the first fifteen states, mainly from the upper Midwest, to first introduce Interstate Compact legislation for adoption this legislation session.
- The licensing efficiencies of the Interstate Compact would especially benefit Wisconsin because 10,391 of the state's physicians are licensed in multiple states, which is a far higher proportion than the national average.

## Eligibility Criteria for an Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

A physician would be able to apply for a medical license under the interstate compact if they meet with following eligibility criteria:

- Full and unrestricted medical license.
- Designation of state of principal license in a compact member state.
- Completion of accredited graduate medical education.
- Passed USMLE or COMLEX-USA examinations within three attempts.
- Holds specialty certification recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or American Osteopathic Association's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists.
- No criminal or disciplinary history.
- Compact adoption by physician state(s) of practice.

## Amendment or Withdrawal from the Compact

- Amendments to the interstate compact require unanimous consent of the member states through enactment of supplementary state statute.
- A member state can withdraw from the interstate compact by repealing enacting legislation.

