



Expedited Licensing through the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact Frequently Asked Questions

What is an interstate compact?

An interstate compact is a legal agreement among states. In the case of the interstate medical licensure compact (IMLC or “the compact”), it’s an agreement that addresses the licensing of physicians across state lines.

Where did the IMLC come from?

A group of state medical board executives, administrators and attorneys wrote the language of the IMLC in 2013 and 2014. The national federation of state medical boards (FSMB) also was involved and helped facilitate the creation of the compact. But no one “owns” the IMLC.

What does the IMLC do?

It creates a new “expedited” pathway to state licensure for experienced physicians who have outstanding practice histories. It sets the qualifications for licensure and outlines the process for physicians to apply and receive licenses in states where they’re not currently licensed. The IMLC also details the role of the governing IMLC commission and sets limits on what the commission can do.

Who’s in charge of the compact?

The compact creates a commission (compact commission) made up of two representatives from each adopting state. Commissioners must be either:

1. A physician member of a medical or osteopathic physician licensing board.
2. A public member of such a board.
3. An executive director or administrator of such a board.

If a state has only one medical board, then both commissioners must come from that board. But if it has two boards, a medical board, and an osteopathic board, then each board gets one seat.

Is the compact in operational now?

Yes. Member states have begun issuing licenses. However, Washington’s Legislation does not go into effect until 7/23/2017. Check back around this time to apply for your Washington Compact License or follow us on [twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#) for immediate notification of when Washington will begin issuing IMLC licenses.



What will a physician have to do to get a license through the compact?

A physician must apply to a state within the compact where the physician already has a license. That state becomes the physician's state of principal license or "home state." The home state reviews the physician's qualifications and shares the results with the compact commission. The compact commission then notifies the "receiving state(s)" within the compact where the physician wishes to be licensed.

What are the responsibilities of the physician in the licensing process?

Submitting an application and paying whatever fees are assessed. It's also possible the physician might be asked by the home state to provide evidence to verify state of principal license.

What are the responsibilities of the "home state" in licensing?

Conducting the review of the applying physician's qualifications under terms of the compact; informing the compact commission of the results.

What are the responsibilities of the IMLC commission in licensing?

Mostly, the compact commission will act as an information exchange between a home state/state of principal license and a receiving state. The IMLC also envisions the compact commission as the entity that collects fees from physicians and transfers licensure fees to receiving states.

What are the responsibilities of the "receiving state" in licensing?

Issuing licenses to qualified physicians once notified by the compact commission and depositing license fees when received from the compact commission. State medical boards participating in the compact are required to share complaint/investigative information with each other.

Can a physician apply for more than one license at a time through the compact?

Yes, but all states chosen must have adopted the compact. A physician practicing under the compact is bound to comply with the statutes, rules, and regulations of each compact state wherein he/she chooses to practice medicine.

What if a physician wants to add another license later? Does the process repeat?

Under the IMLC, the process would repeat exactly as it operated the first time. However, the compact commission could write rules about this subject. (None are contemplated at this time.)

How long does a "home state" certification last once it's sent to the commission?

The letter of qualification is valid for one year.

How can I participate in commission meetings or decisions?

Commission meetings (including meetings of the executive committee) are publicized through the participating states. The compact commission shares meeting notices and press releases with the federation of state medical boards and the national center for interstate compacts/council of state governments. Compact commission meetings are open to the public and include a [telephone conference](#) call for individuals who cannot attend in person. It's possible that video conferencing also might be used in the future.