


Physical Therapy Licensure Compact: the North Carolina Experience

National Council of State Boards
Speech and Language Pathology and Audiology
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Physical Therapy Compact

Increasing Consumer Access, Interstate Mobility, and Cross-State Practice




Objectives

- ▶ Provide an overview of the development Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC) as an enhancement of public protection
- ▶ Describe the purpose of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC)
- ▶ Identify the benefits of the PTLC to primary stakeholders
- ▶ NC Implementation Experiences of PTLC - Discuss implementation challenges and successes




Acknowledgment and Disclaimer



Physical Therapy Licensure Compact - Purpose

► Facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to physical therapy services



Is the Portability of Healthcare Workers a regulatory/public protection issue?

1. Purpose statement of the compact Yes
2. The FSBPT membership Yes
3. The Federal Government Yes
4. Public policy groups and private entities Yes
5. Other regulatory professions Yes
6. Other countries Yes



Identified Ways the Compact will Potentially Increase Access


- ▶ Consumers living near state borders and underserved areas
- ▶ Utilization of telehealth technologies
- ▶ Access to Specialists
- ▶ Cross Board delivery models - Medical Homes, Accountable Care Organizations
- ▶ Traveling therapists
- ▶ Traveling groups: Teams and Performers
- ▶ Disasters
- ▶ Military spouses



Other options to achieve the same objectives?

FSBPT


- ▶ 2012 Licensure Portability paper
 - ▶ Credentials verification
 - ▶ Review and evaluate licensure requirements/exemptions
 - ▶ Alternative models such as limited reciprocity agreements
 - ▶ Limited Compacts
- ▶ Licensure Portability Resource Guide - 2013 (in addition to above jurisdictions should:)
 - ▶ Furnish and allow electronic licensure verifications




Other options to achieve the same objectives? (cont.)

FSBPT

- ▶ Licensure Portability Resource Guide - 2013 (in addition to the previous slide) Jurisdictions should:
 - ▶ Furnish and allow electronic licensure verifications
 - ▶ Change any state practice act language with specific exam score requirements to more general language
 - ▶ Fully participate in the Exam, Licensure, Disciplinary Database
 - ▶ Utilize the national continuing competence requirement tracker
 - ▶ Utilize ProCert approved courses to increase uniform standards for CE
 - ▶ Support a Common Licensure Application Service and credential verification service




Physical Therapy Licensure Compact - Purpose




- Practice of physical therapy**
 - Occurs in state where patient is located
 - Follows the scope of practice of state where patient is located
- Preserves**
 - State's regulatory authority to protect public health & safety through current system of state licensure
- Supports**
 - Spouses of relocated military members
- Enhances**
 - Exchange of licensure, investigatory, and disciplinary information between member states

Compact Benefits for the Public



- ▶ Improve continuity of care
- ▶ Improve portability for military spouses
- ▶ Improve access to physical therapy providers
- ▶ Increase choice of physical therapy providers
- ▶ Eye to the future
 - ▶ New health care delivery models
 - ▶ International access to care
 - ▶ Alternate physical therapy delivery methods...Telehealth?

Compact Benefits for Jurisdictions



- ▶ Preserves the current state-based licensure system
- ▶ Full participation in the Exam, Licensure, and Disciplinary Database (ELDD)
- ▶ Requires criminal background checks for applicants for initial licensure
- ▶ Requires continuing competence
- ▶ Allows sharing of investigatory information
- ▶ Demonstrates PT regulators responsiveness to issues
 - ▶ E.g.: portability

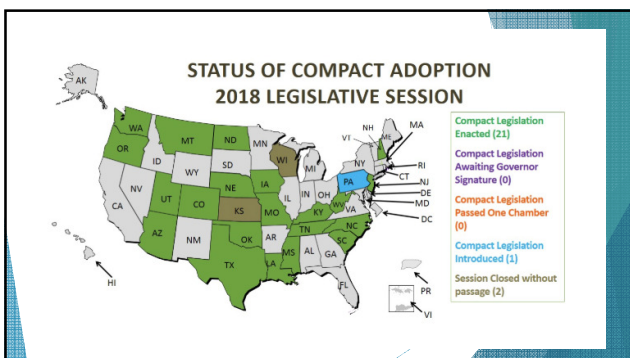
Steps in Compact Development

- ▶ 2010
 - ▶ Motion to Explore a Compact
- ▶ 2011
 - ▶ Request a Study
- ▶ 2012
 - ▶ Report
 - ▶ Motion to Recommend Tools
- ▶ 2013
 - ▶ Resource Guide
 - ▶ Motion to Support Compact
- ▶ 2014
 - ▶ Advisory Task Force Recommends Development of a Compact



Steps in Compact Development (cont.)

- ▶ 2015 - 2017
 - ▶ Compact Drafting Team
- ▶ 2017
 - ▶ March, 2017 - Oregon - first state to adopt the PT Compact
 - ▶ April 25, 2017 - 10th State adopts Compact - Compact Officially enacted
 - ▶ June 14, 2017 - PTLC holds first Commission Meeting; elects Officers
 - ▶ July - October, 2017 Rules and Bylaw Drafted, Exec Board Meeting, Administrative Entity created and staff hired
 - ▶ November 5, 2017 - First Annual meeting of the Compact Commission
- ▶ 2018
 - ▶ First Compact Privileges Issued



Key Provisions of PT Compact

- ▶ Compact Privilege - Different than a license. Compact Privilege is purchased for each desired state.
- ▶ Eligibility Requirements - Licensees must meet and maintain all requirements to obtain and keep Compact Privileges.
- ▶ Home State - defined as the licensee's primary state of residence. Licensee must have active license in his/her home state. Home state's requirements and disciplinary authority unchanged for licensee.



Key Provisions of PT Compact

- ▶ Remote State - Remote states have authority to take action against a Compact Privilege.
- ▶ Disciplinary Actions - All adverse actions and disciplinary actions will be reported regularly to Commission and shared with member states including availability of investigatory information.
- ▶ Continuing Competence Required (for those states that did not previously require it)
- ▶ FBI Criminal Background Checks Required on initial licensure decisions



Lessons from North Carolina - Legislative Process

- ▶ Would this enhance the public protection mission of the NCSBPT?
- ▶ Is the state chapter of the national PT association in agreement with the concept?
- ▶ Advocacy team
 - ▶ State Association
 - ▶ State Association Lobbyist
 - ▶ Information provided by NCSBPT - it's a regulatory bill
- ▶ Bill sponsors
- ▶ Provide Information as requested by legislators and Legislative Research division

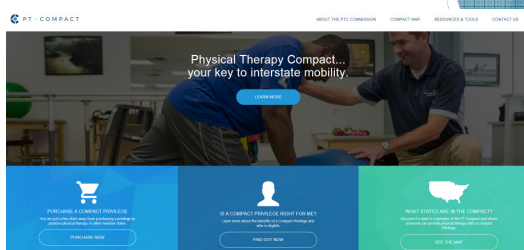


Lessons from North Carolina - Implementation

- ▶ Criminal Background Checks
- ▶ Unique Identifier
- ▶ Data sharing with the Commission
- ▶ Public Protection via Privilege Holder "look up" in NCBPTE database
- ▶ Are Rules other than Compact Rules needed?
- ▶ Jurisprudence Exercise for privilege holders



PTCompact.org Informational Site



Want More Information?

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References

- ▶ www.fsbpt.org
- ▶ ptcompact.org
