

# THE PA LICENSURE COMPACT:

## Connecting States, Expanding Care for Patients and Providers

The **PA Licensure Compact** is an interstate occupational licensure compact for physician assistants/physician associates (PAs). The compact provides a streamlined process via a compact privilege for PAs to practice in other compact member states without needing multiple licenses.

A PA Licensure Compact supports the nation's healthcare workforce by reducing the burden of maintaining multiple state licenses.

### Benefits For Patients:

- Reduces delays and increases availability of qualified practitioners
- Greater access to services (in person and telehealth)
- Elevates safety standards through shared data system
- Strengthens continuity of care

### Benefits For PAs:

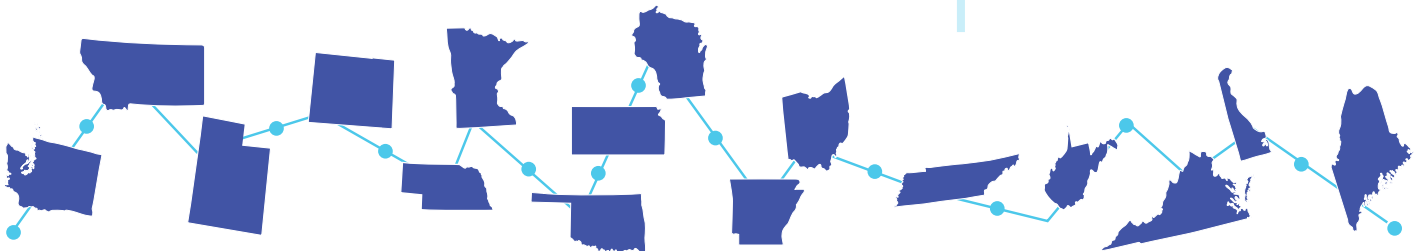
- Reduces time and cost requirements to practice across state lines
- Expands employment opportunities
- Minimizes administrative burdens
- Supports relocating military spouses

The PA Compact preserves the current state-based licensure system while encouraging cooperation among compact member states in regulating PA practice and facilitating cross-state licensure board cooperation in investigations and disputes.

The PA Compact does **not** affect scope of practice – PAs using a compact privilege to practice must abide by state laws and regulations where they are practicing. There isn't a single solution to make our healthcare workforce more efficient, but the PA Compact can be a start. By improving licensure portability, the PA Compact may enhance access to care for rural and underserved communities.

### PA Licensure Compact Activated

The PA Compact has reached the threshold of 7 states to begin the process to operationalize the compact. PAs cannot currently utilize the compact for privileges to practice, as it typically takes 18-24 months after activation to begin giving out these privileges to practice. Any state that wishes to join the compact must enact the model PA compact legislation.

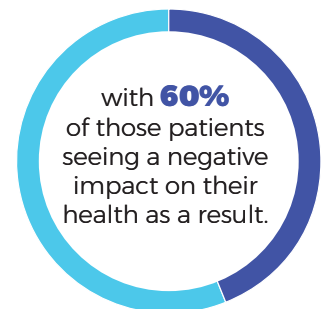
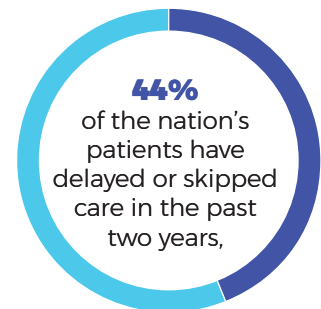


Graphic depicts states that have joined the compact as of April 2025.

The PA Licensure Compact is the result of a joint initiative that began in 2019 among the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). The Council of State Governments (CSG) provided technical assistance.

### Proven Need for a PA Licensure Compact

 Patients wait on average **3.9 weeks** for a medical appointment.



According to a Harris Poll, **9 out of 10** respondents agreed PAs should be utilized to address healthcare workforce shortages.