The Iowa Board of Nursing is pleased to be a member of the nurse licensure compact. This new form of licensure and regulation will better protect the public by:

- Allowing competent nurses to provide care both physically and electronically wherever care is needed;
- Providing the public ready access to and a choice of qualified nurses;
- Protecting clients against incompetent nurses or unsafe nursing care through better communication between boards of nursing, cooperative disciplinary investigations and prompt reporting of disciplinary action;
- Benefiting employers of nurses by having a more mobile workforce and a convenient centralized database for verification of licensure credentials.

Understanding the basics

- The nurse licensure compact allows a nurse who resides in a compact state to hold ONE license in the nurse’s primary state of residence and practice in all other states in which the compact is in effect. Primary state of residence is where the nurse holds a driver’s license, pays taxes and/or votes.

- The compact requires the nurse to practice according to the laws and regulations of the state in which the nurse provides care where the patient is located at the time the care is provided. The practice laws and regulations for many states are available online. Web addresses are listed at the end of this document.

- A nurse who is under discipline may be in a monitoring agreement, which restricts practice across state lines.

- If you hold a license in a COMPACT state and RESIDE in that COMPACT state, your license is a multistate license which authorizes you to practice in any other compact state.
If you hold a license in a COMPACT state, but do not RESIDE in that compact state (reside in a non-compact state), your license is a single state license and it authorizes you to practice only in that compact state. For example, if you hold an Iowa nursing license, but do not live in Iowa, the license is a single state license and does not grant you the privilege to practice in any other state.

If you are licensed in both Iowa and another compact state and RESIDE in the other compact state, your Iowa nursing license will be administratively placed on inactive status immediately. Only one active license can be held by a licensee among the compact states.

The compact does not supersede federal law. Therefore if you are employed in military service or work for the federal government, you may continue to hold a nursing license in any state you choose. If you are working as a nurse in a nongovernmental capacity, you are required to contact the state board of nursing in that state to determine if a nursing license is required.

If you move from one compact state to another compact state and practice nursing, you must obtain a license in your new home state. However, you may continue to practice under the former home state license and the multistate licensure privilege in the new home state for a period not to exceed 30 - 90 days. The 30 - 90-days begin the date that the licensee establishes the new primary state of residence. All states do not have the same number of days that are allowed to practice using the previous multi-state license. Contact the new home state to obtain the number of days allowed. (Iowa = 90 days)

Web addresses and telephone number for states boards of nursing that are in the compact are as follows:

Arizona  602-889-5150  www.azbn.gov
Arkansas  501-686-2700  www.arsbn.org
Colorado  303-894-2430  www.dora.state.co.us/nursing
Delaware  302-739-4522  www.professionallicensing.state.de.us/boards/nursing/index.shtml
Idaho    208-334-3110  www.ww2.state.id.us/ibn
Iowa     515-281-3255  www.iowa.gov/nursing
Kentucky  502-429-3300  www.kbn.ky.gov/
Maine    207-287-1133  www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/
Maryland  410-585-1900  www.mbon.org
Mississippi  601-987-4188  www.msbn.state.ms.us
Missouri  573-751-0681  http://pr.mo.gov/nursing.asp
Nebraska  402-471-4376  www.hhss.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/nursingindex.htm
New Hampshire  603-271-2323  www.state.nh.us/nursing/
New Mexico  505-841-8340  www.bon.state.nm.us/index.html
North Carolina  919-782-3211  www.ncbon.com
North Dakota  701-328-9777  www.ndbon.org
Rhode Island  401-222-3352  www.health.ri.gov
South Carolina  803-896-4550  www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing
South Dakota  605-362-2760  www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing/
Tennessee  615-532-5166  http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/Nursing/index.htm
Texas      512-305-7400  www.bne.state.tx.us/
Utah       801-530-6628  http://www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/nursing.html
Virginia   804-367-4515  www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing
Wisconsin  608-266-0145  www.drl.state.wi.us