National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN®)

- NCSBN® is an independent, nonprofit association comprising 59 boards of nursing from across the U.S., the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories.
- Boards of nursing are responsible for licensure, practice and discipline of the 3.2 million nurses (RNs, LPN/VNs and APRNs) in the U.S. with active licenses.
- Boards of nursing are also responsible for the approval of prelicensure nursing education programs in the U.S.
- NCSBN was created to bring boards of nursing together to act and counsel with one another and lessen the burden of state government.
- The mission of NCSBN is to provide education, service, and research through collaborative leadership to promote evidence-based regulatory excellence for patient safety and public protection.
- One of the critical resources that NCSBN provides for boards of nursing, employers and the public is Nursys®, the only national database currently available for verification of nurse licensure and discipline for RNs, LPN/VNs and APRNs. Nursys allows access to the status of a nurse's license and provides information about any history of discipline.

NCSBN Telehealth Policy

- NCSBN understands and supports efforts to expand telehealth as a model of care delivery. We recognize that technological advances can both reduce the cost of care and increase patient access to care across the country.
- NCSBN recognizes the growing need for providers to be able to practice across state lines; however, a policy of one single interstate license that bases licensure on the location of the provider overlooks important public protection needs.
- NCSBN believes that licensure should be based on the location of the patient as dictated by current law.
- Moving licensure to the site of the provider will create confusion for nurses, patients and boards of nursing, not to mention the fact that it will be in direct conflict with states’ constitutional rights.
- Patients need to be able to seek recourse in the event that something goes wrong. If a provider is not located in their state, that process can often be complicated due to jurisdictional issues.
- Our goal at NCSBN is to work with Congress and telehealth advocates to resolve concerns about licensure being a barrier to the expansion of telehealth services.
Telehealth and the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

- In 2000, NCSBN launched a new initiative to expand the mobility of nurses as part of our nation’s health care delivery system. The NLC is an interstate compact that allows a nurse to have one multistate license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state’s practice laws and regulation.

- Under the NLC, when a nurse is disciplined, he or she loses multistate practice privileges.

- States participating in the NLC are legally required to report disciplinary actions in Nursys.

- NLC states must also flag when a nurse is under investigation prior to any disciplinary action being taken. This information is shared with other NLC states.

- Several organizations have endorsed the NLC, including the American Telemedicine Association and the Center for Telehealth & e-Health Law.

- Almost half of U.S. states have already adopted the NLC, and that number is expected to grow in the coming years.

- The NLC is undergoing revision to address concerns raised by states that have not yet joined the NLC, a process that will encourage new states to join.