



OUT-OF-STATE NURSES PRACTICING IN NORTH CAROLINA FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME

POSITION STATEMENT
for RN and LPN Practice

A Position Statement does not carry the force and effect of law and rules but is adopted by the Board as a means of providing direction to licensees who seek to engage in safe nursing practice. Board Position Statements address issues of concern to the Board relevant to protection of the public and are reviewed regularly for relevance and accuracy to current practice, the Nursing Practice Act, and Board Administrative Code Rules.

Issue:

Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practice Nurses (LPN) are required to hold a valid, current North Carolina nursing license or possess a valid, current multi-state license from a Nurse Licensure Compact state to practice nursing in North Carolina (NC). At times, however, nurses licensed in another jurisdiction (Compact or non-Compact) are assigned to provide on-going nursing care to an established client traveling to or through NC for a limited period of time. It is in the best interest of continuity of client care to facilitate nursing care delivery by eliminating potential licensure barriers in such situations.

Examples include, but are not limited to, licensed nurse requests to:

- 1) accompany a client vacationing in NC;
- 2) escort an assigned client to a NC facility from another jurisdiction; or,
- 3) in the case of a school nurse, provide care and/or delegate care, including medication administration and/or the operation/maintenance of medical equipment, to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) under the school nurse's supervision and direction for students traveling to or through NC on a school sponsored activity.

Both RN and LPN Role:

A nurse licensed in a non-Compact jurisdiction or holding a single-state license in a compact state other than NC and accompanying an assigned client from their jurisdiction traveling to or through NC for 30 days or less may continue to practice in NC. A nurse licensed in a non-Compact jurisdiction or holding a single-state license in a compact state other than NC may remotely delegate and supervise UAP, even if the nurse is not present in NC with the UAP (e.g. a school nurse from a non-Compact jurisdiction or holding a single state license outside of NC).

In contrast, the Nurse Licensure Compact requires that a nurse possessing a multi-state license from a Compact state must practice under the party state's (e.g., NC) nursing laws and rules.

LPN Role:

An LPN licensed in a non-Compact jurisdiction or holding a single-state license in a compact state other than NC may continue to practice when accompanying an assigned client from their jurisdiction traveling to or through NC for 30 days or less under their pre-existing clinical supervision requirements.

In contrast, an LPN possessing a multi-state license from a Compact state must, in such situations, practice under RN supervision as required by NC nursing laws and rules.

North Carolina Nurses Practicing in Other States:

The North Carolina licensed nurse (RN and LPN) wanting to travel outside of North Carolina and continue to engage in nursing practice should contact the state or respective jurisdiction to which they plan to travel before arriving in the state to ascertain the specific practice requirements of that remote state. The North Carolina licensed nurse (RN and LPN) must know the requirements/regulations to practice prior to engaging in nursing practice.

North Carolina licensed nurses holding a multi-state license are able to practice in other compact states under their privilege to practice. North Carolina licensed nurses holding a single state license do not hold the privilege to practice in other compact states. North Carolina licensed nurses must contact non-compact states to determine what steps are needed before they are able to legally practice nursing within the non-compact state.

References:

G.S 90-171.83 Nurse Licensure Compact – General Provisions and Jurisdiction
21 NCAC 36 .0224 – Components of Nursing Practice for the Registered Nurse
21 NCAC 36 .0225 – Components of Nursing Practice for the Licensed Practical Nurse

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