



# Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON) Exploring the Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Compact for Washington State

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WABON hosted Advanced Practice Nurses from across the state in four workshops to explore the implications of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact (APRN Compact) in the state of Washington. There is general agreement that the concept of a national licensure compact is timely and has benefits for both patient care and Advanced Practice Nurses. However, there have been concerns expressed about specific aspects of the current National Council of State Board APRN Compact.

A brief history of the RN and LPN Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) currently being implemented by WABON was presented. Similarities and differences between the NLC and the APRN Compact were also presented. The benefits and barriers to adoption of the APRN Compact were discussed at each workshop and are summarized below.

## Benefits

Patients - Improve access to care, continuity of care and quality of care across state lines.

Cost effective for licensees including faculty resulting in a decrease in time spent acquiring multiple state licenses with different requirements. There would also be flexibility in practice location.

Ease in transition across states would benefit military spouses and health care systems hiring ARNPs.

## Risks

The requirement of an additional 2080 clinical practice hours for new graduates prior to obtaining a multistate license imposes a non-evidence-based barrier to practice.

There is no assurance that there will be Advanced Practice Nurse representation required in the APRN Compact Commission, potentially adversely affecting the Commission governance.

Inconsistent recognition of APRN roles. Some states could join the compact that do not license Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNSs).

## Practice Related Concerns

Patients - Controlled substance prescribing is not clearly addressed which is a gap as prescribing authority varies among states.

Definition of APRN does not account for the increased variability of scope of practice across states in advanced practice roles.

## Discipline Related Concerns

Potentially be charged criminally for care provided in compact states with unrestricted reproductive health or transgender care laws if they have a compact license from a home state with more restrictive laws.

There may be a decrease in those who voluntarily choose to enter an alternative to discipline program because those in the program are not eligible for a multistate license.

## Recommended Next Steps

- 1 | Implement a communication plan to disseminate this educational brief.
- 2 | Discuss outcomes with NCSBN and consider options to provide additional information to address identified concerns.
- 3 | Complete a deeper financial and workforce analysis to assess the impact of the APRN Compact more accurately.
- 4 | Support a workgroup to develop solutions to address the risks and explore how to provide the benefits of a licensing compact.

