



January 3, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Administrators of Licensed Healthcare Facilities and Activities

**FROM:** Gwen C. Thompson, Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing

**SUBJECT:** Nurse Licensing Compact Act

In Department regulations referring to a licensed nurse, i.e., Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), the term “licensed” indicates that nurses providing nursing care to residents, patients, or clients of a facility or activity shall be currently licensed by the South Carolina Board of Nursing.

The Nurse Licensure Compact Act (the Act) became law on May 26, 2005, and allows the South Carolina Board of Nursing to enter into a multi-state nurse licensure compact for RNs and LPNs. The Act establishes relationships between participating states in the areas of jurisdiction, discipline, and information sharing for licensed nurses. The full text of the Act can be viewed on the South Carolina Legislature online web site:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c033.php>

Subject to certain conditions, the Act allows an RN or LPN who is licensed in a compact state to practice across state lines in another compact member state without having to obtain a license in the other member state. The compact does not include Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs); Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS).

Therefore, in the interest of establishing reasonable standards that can be met by providers and which do not compromise the health and well-being of the individuals of these facilities and activities, it has been determined that an alternative standard will be acceptable.

All licensed facilities and activities will be required to meet the standards outlined in the relevant licensing regulations regarding the employment of licensed nurses, or, as an alternative:

*An individual licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who resides in another state that has been granted multi-state licensing privileges by the South Carolina Board of Nursing may practice nursing in any facility or activity licensed by the Department subject to the provisions and conditions as indicated in the Nurse Licensure Compact Act. Facilities/Activities must comply with all other elements of the licensing regulations related to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.*

This memorandum applies to licensing standards for any facility or activity licensed by the Department that refer to registered nurses or licensed practical nurses. This exception relates solely to South Carolina registered nurses and licensing practical nurses. This exception relates solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this memorandum may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions regarding the memorandum, please contact the Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing at (803) 545-4370. Specific questions concerning the Nurse Licensure Compact Act, should be directed to the South Carolina Board of Nursing at (803) 896-4550.

GCT/dnf