

# Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

**Improve Consumer Access**  
**Promote Public Safety**  
**Retain State Authority**  
**Improve Licensure Portability**

Presented on behalf of APTA New Mexico  
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## What is the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact?

- Facilitates interstate PT & PTA practice and improves public access to physical therapy services
- Provides a faster alternative to traditional licensure for eligible licensees in participating states
- 28 states adopted, including: AZ, CO, TX, UT





## How can New Mexico and NM PTs & PTAs join the Compact?

- NM: adopt the compact model legislation
- NM receives one vote on the national compact commission
- NM PTs & PTAs (new licensees):
  - Pass a national exam and undergo FBI background check
- NM Licensing Board requires continuing competence/education for licensure renewal



## Benefits to New Mexico

- Preserves current state-based licensure & disciplinary system
- Flexibility for NM to set additional Compact fees
- Improves recruitment of licensed PTs & PTAs in rural areas of New Mexico
- Provides greater consumer access and choice for physical therapy care
- Streamlines ability for licensed PT & PTAs to practice across state lines
- **Benefits to Military Families:**
  - Military spouses have flexibility in determining their home state
  - Compact privilege process is faster than going through state's traditional licensure process
  - Licensure portability



## Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Patient Safety



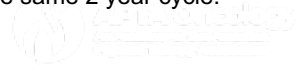
- Does the Compact change the scope of practice?
  - No. PT & PTA works within the scope of practice in the state where the patient encounter takes place
- What is the cost for a Compact privilege?
  - \$45 Compact fee plus the state fee for the compact privilege
- When is the Compact privilege renewed?
  - Compact privilege expires with the home state license
- How does the Compact ensure patient safety?
  - When applying for a Compact privilege, PT & PTA cannot have any active encumbrances or disciplinary actions against their license for a period of 2 years
  - If a Compact privilege is revoked in one state, it is revoked in any additional states



## Frequently Asked Questions PT & PTA Competence



- If NM joins the Compact, will it allow less qualified PT & PTAs to work in NM?
  - PT & PTA academic programs in United States are nationally accredited and new licensees must pass a standardized national exam (NPTE)
- How will a PT & PTA with a compact privilege to practice in New Mexico know about our state's scope of practice?
  - Applying PT & PTA must successfully complete the jurisprudence requirement for the state(s) in which compact privilege is requested
- What if another state's PT Licensing Board does not require continuing competence?
  - Compact requires continuing competence established by Home State Physical Therapy Licensure Board
  - NM requires 30 CEUs/2 year renewal period
  - Border Compact State CEU requirements for the same 2 year cycle:
    - AZ 20, CO 30, TX 30, UT 40



## PT LICENSING BOARD:

### What powers does it hold for compact participants?

NM PT Licensing Board  
Position

July 22, 2020

Board approved a motion  
supporting legislative process  
for New Mexico join the PT  
Compact

- State licensing board can investigate allegations and take adverse action against the compact privilege
- Home state licensing board can take adverse action against the PT & PTA home state license
- State licensing board may set add'l state fee for compact privilege
- Commission rules *only* apply to administration of the Compact, not how New Mexico handles PT statutes

#### For more information:

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