

AOTA NBCOT Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Initiative

Western Regional OT Spring Symposium
Las Vegas, Nevada

Sunday, March 8, 2020
8:15am – 9:15am

Overview

- Introductions and the “big picture”
- Background information on interstate compacts
- Details about the AOTA NBCOT OT licensure compact initiative
- Plans for developing the OT licensure compact
- Opportunities to get involved
- Q & A

Questions for the Audience

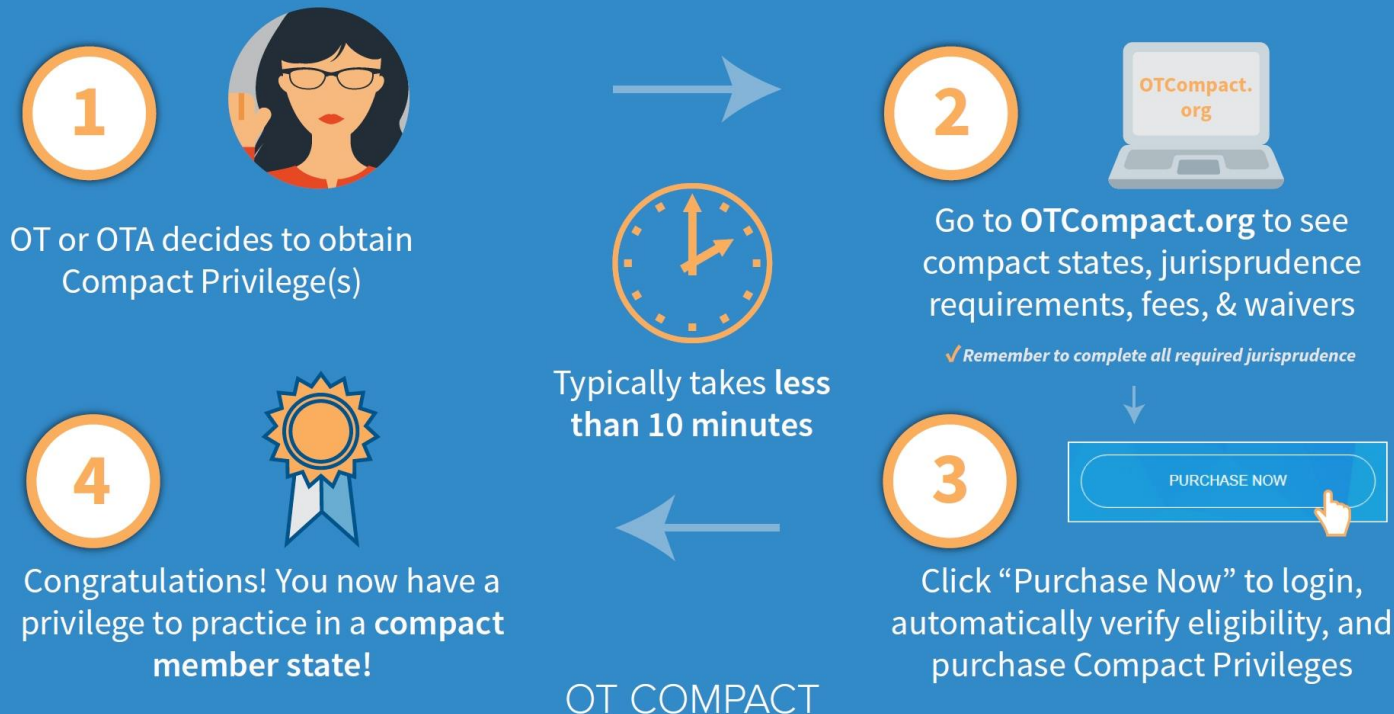
- Who is here today? OTs? OTAs? Students?
- How many of you are licensed in multiple states?
- How would you describe the process of getting licensed in multiple states?
- Would you be interested in a centralized process that would allow you to obtain a privilege to practice in more than one state?

Big picture

- A licensure compact will allow licensed OTs and OTAs to obtain a privilege to legally practice in other compact states
- Joint AOTA NBCOT initiative to create the legal framework to make this a reality
- Multi-year initiative that will require legislation to be enacted in each state
- 10 states required to activate the compact

Borrowing from the PT Compact

How to Get a Compact Privilege in Minutes



Adapted with permission from the PT Compact.

For more information, visit <http://ptcompact.org>

Background Information on Interstate Compacts

*A contract between states - the
legal mechanism that makes all of
this possible*

What is an interstate compact?

- Provides simple, versatile and proven tool
- Provides effective means for cooperatively addressing common problems
- Allows states to respond to national priorities with one voice
- Retains collective state sovereignty over issues belonging to the states

Licensure Compact Benefits

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Additional Benefits

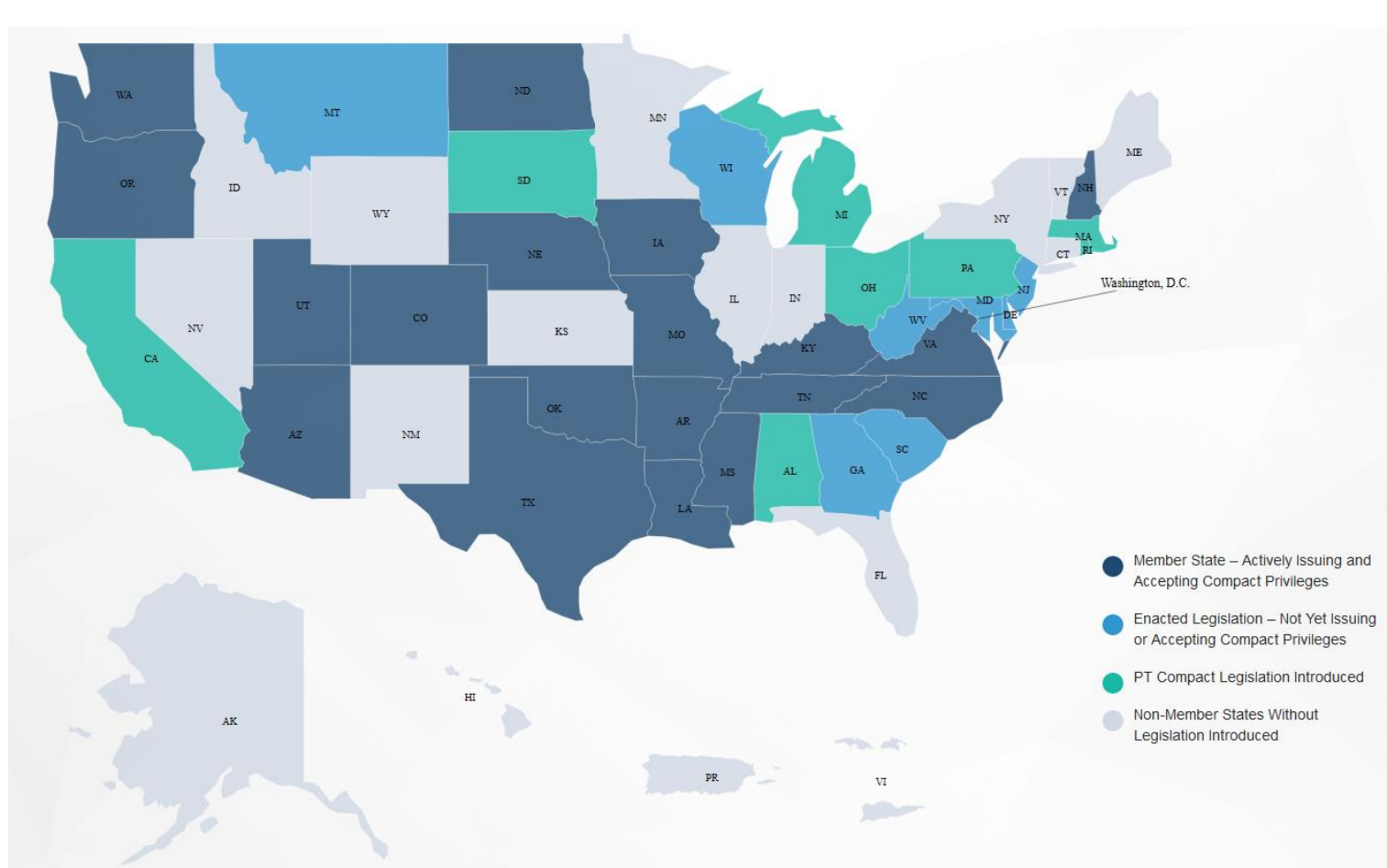
- Establishes agreement on uniform licensure requirements
- Creates data system to allow electronic processing of interstate licensure
- Creates standards for disciplinary actions and dispute resolution related to interstate licensure
- Requires FBI Fingerprint based on criminal background checks
- Establishes centralized process that cuts down on paperwork and processing time
- Remains in place – voluntary licensure process
- Remains in tact – scope of practice

Licensure Compacts in Other Professions

Name, number in compact, number required to activate

- Nurse Licensure Compact – 25 states (expired)
- Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact – 34 states (25)
- APRN Compact – 3 states (10)
- EMS Licensure Compact – 18 states (10)
- Medical Licensure Compact – 29 states (7)
- Physical Therapy Compact – 25 states (10)
- PsyPact – 12 states (7)
- Audiology and Speech-Language-Hearing Interstate Compact –
0 enacted (10)

PTCompact.org



ASLP-IC

2020 Legislation pending:

Georgia

Kansas

Kentucky

Maryland

Nebraska

Oklahoma

Utah

West Virginia

Wyoming

More info: <https://aslpcompact.com/>

What is the ASLP-IC

Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology
Interstate Compact

ASLP-IC is an occupational licensure compact that:

- Addresses increased demand to provide/receive audiology and speech-language pathology services.
- Authorizes both telehealth and in-person practice across state lines in ASLP-IC states.
- Is similar in form and function to occupational licensure compacts for nursing, psychology, medicine, physical therapy and emergency medical services.

10 states ASLP-IC is operational when 10 states enact the legislation for the compact.

State Line 10 miles

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists licensed in their home state apply for a privilege to practice under the ASLP-IC. State lines are a barrier no more!

ASLP-IC states communicate and exchange information including verification of licensure and disciplinary sanctions.

ASLP-IC states retain the ability to regulate practice in their states.

Benefits

- Increasing access to client, patient, and student care.
- Facilitating continuity of care when clients, patients, and students relocate, travel.
- Certifying that audiologists and speech-language pathologists have met acceptable standards of practice.
- Promoting cooperation between ASLP-IC states in the areas of licensure and regulation.
- Offering a higher degree of consumer protection across state lines.

Impacts

- Allowing licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice face to face or through telehealth across state lines without having to become licensed in additional ASLP-IC states.
- Permitting audiologists and speech-language pathologists to provide services to populations currently underserved or geographically isolated.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their profession when relocating.

For more information: aslpcompact.com

AOTA NBCOT OT Licensure Compact Initiative

Goal: OT licensure compact legislation introduced in multiple states in 2021

Which western states will be OT licensure compact pioneer states?

NBCOT & Licensure Portability

- 7th Annual OT State Regulatory Conference, *Telehealth, Telepractice, Telesupervision: What it is and How it Relates to OT Regulation* – 2000
- 20th Annual OT State Regulatory Conference, *Licensure Portability and Telehealth (Panel Discussion)* – 2013
- 21st Annual OT State Regulatory Conference, *Current and Future State of Licensure Portability and Telehealth* – 2014
- OT state licensure board meetings and professional conferences

AOTA & Licensure Portability

- Ad Hoc Committee – 2015
- Professional policy adopted – 2016
- Study – Future payment for OT via telehealth under Medicare - 2018
- Included in AOTA Strategic Plan - 2018

AOTA NBCOT

Joint OT Licensure Compact Initiative

- Collaboration between AOTA and NBCOT formalized – 2019
- NBCOT agrees to provide substantial financial funding for new initiative beginning FY 2020
- AOTA contracts with CSG to create compact
- Joint AOTA NBCOT OT licensure compact initiative announced – 2019

AOTA NBCOT OT Licensure Compact

Joint AOTA NBCOT OT licensure compact initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 23, 2019

MEDIA CONTACTS

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AOTA and NBCOT Announce Collaboration to Support Development of an Interstate Licensure Compact for Occupational Therapy

Multi-year initiative would improve consumer access to occupational therapy services, enhance the mobility of occupational therapy practitioners, and strengthen the state licensure system.

Bethesda, MD—The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA®) and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®) will be collaborating over the next four years to create an interstate licensure compact for the occupational therapy profession. AOTA and NBCOT will be working with the Council of State Governments (CSG), state occupational therapy regulatory entities, state occupational therapy associations, and other stakeholders to allow state licensure reciprocity. A compact is a legal agreement between states that will allow licensed occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) to practice in those states that join the compact. Currently, OTs and OTAs must obtain licensure in each state in which they want to practice. An interstate licensure compact for the occupational therapy profession will:

- Improve consumer access to occupational therapy
- Increase opportunities to practice across state lines (e.g., telehealth, telerehabilitation, distance education)
- Enhance mobility of occupational therapy practitioners and their families
- Support spouses of relocating military families
- Improve continuity of care
- Preserve and strengthen the state licensure system
- Enhance the exchange of licensure verification, investigatory, and disciplinary information between member states.

CSG's nationally recognized National Center for Interstate Compacts will lead stakeholders through a consensus-based process to develop the licensure compact language. The draft language will then be circulated for input from the profession.

AOTA NBCOT OT Licensure Compact

- CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts creates:
 - Advisory Group
 - Drafting Team
- CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts will lead advisory group through process to draft compact with input from stakeholders

AOTA NBCOT

Joint OT Licensure Compact Initiative

- AOTA and state associations will lead advocacy efforts to enact legislation in the states
- 25th NBCOT Annual OT State Regulatory Conference, *AOTA & NBCOT Joint Initiative: Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact - 2020*

Plans for Developing the OT Licensure Compact

We've already registered
<http://www.OTCompact.org>

Three Phases

INTERSTATE COMPACTS—DEVELOPMENT

Phase I Development	Phase II Education and Enactment	Phase III Transition and Operation
<p>ADVISORY GROUP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Composed of approx. 20 state officials, stakeholders and issue experts➤ Examines issues, current policy, best practices and alternative structures➤ Establishes recommendations as to the content of an interstate compact <p>DRAFTING TEAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Composed of 5 to 8 state officials, stakeholders, and issue experts➤ Crafts compact based on recommendations➤ Circulates draft compact to states and stakeholder groups for comment <p>FINAL PRODUCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Drafting team considers comments and incorporates into compact➤ Final product sent to advisory group➤ Released to states for consideration	<p>EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Develop comprehensive legislative resource kit➤ Develop informational internet site with state-by-state tracking and support documents➤ Convene “National Briefing” to educate legislators and key state officials <p>STATE SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Develop network of “champions”➤ Provide on-site technical support and assistance➤ Provide informational testimony to legislative committees <p>STATE ENACTMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Track and support state enactments➤ Prepare for transition and implementation of compact➤ Provide requested support as needed	<p>TRANSITION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Enactment threshold met➤ State notification➤ Interim Executive Board appointed➤ Interim Committee’s established➤ Convene first Compact meeting➤ Information system development (standards, security, vendors) <p>OPERATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ongoing state control and governance➤ Staff support➤ Annual assessment, if necessary➤ Annual business meeting➤ Information system oversight (maintenance, security, training, etc.)➤ Long-term enhancements / up-grades

OT Compact Advisory Group

Consensus on Key Points (October 2019)

- Open to licensed OTs and OTAs
- The home state license authorizes practitioner participation in the compact.
- The “mutual recognition model” was recommended by the Advisory Group. This means practitioners must have a home state license and then will apply for privileges to practice in other states.
- A minimum of 10 states will be needed
- Practitioners with an encumbered license will not be able access compact privileges.
- Participating states must implement FBI fingerprint-based criminal background checks.
- Exploring provision related to relocating OTs/OTAs.



Members of CSG's Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact Advisory Group

OT Compact Drafting Team

- Drafting team met February 25-26, 2020 at CSG's offices in Washington, DC
- OT licensure compact initial draft legislation
- Relocation provision + other compacts



Members of CSG's Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact Drafting Team

Timeline

August 2019	Contract with CSG
September 2019	Joint AOTA NBCOT OT Licensure Compact Initiative Announced
October 2019	Advisory Group Meeting
Nov/Dec 2019	Advisory Group Calls
Feb 2020	Drafting Team Meets
Mid 2020	Circulate Draft/Feedback
Late 2020	Model Legislation Circulated to States
Early 2021	Bills Introduced

Opportunities to Get Involved

Advocate for OT

Support the OT Compact!

Get Involved

- Review draft OT licensure compact legislation and provide feedback
- Encourage state association to introduce OT licensure compact legislation
- Advocate with licensure board/state agency with oversight to support the compact
- Support OT licensure compact legislation (coming soon!)
- Stay informed by visiting OTCompact.org (coming soon!)

Q & A + Contacts

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