



National Association of State EMS Officials

201 Park Washington Court • Falls Church, VA 22046-4527 • www.nasemso.org
703-538-1799 • fax 703-241-5603 • info@nasemso.org

Model Interstate Compact for EMS Personnel Licensure for State Adoption

Talking Points

Implementation of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education Agenda for the Future is opening new doors for professional recognition of EMS personnel across state borders. *The Model Interstate Compact for EMS Personnel Licensure for State Adoption Project* is one example of how EMS is able to evolve and emerge as a health care discipline that parallels other allied health professions. The Model Interstate Compact will benefit EMS personnel who may work in cross border environments, EMS employers, state EMS offices and ultimately the patients served by EMS people and organizations working in more than one state.

What are the project goals?

NASEMSO has proposed to demonstrate, at a national level, that systematic development and design of an interstate compact model will facilitate a robust and capable method of offering rapid, and in specified cases, immediate legal recognition to individuals properly licensed in their states of origin under controlled circumstances. Ultimately, the project is hoping to solve the problem associated with day-to-day emergency deployment of EMS personnel across state boundaries. In short, this project is intended to create an instrument that parallels that which has made it possible for interstate recognition of nursing licenses and state drivers' licenses to be recognized by other states on short term and condition-limited bases. In each example member states agree to honor licenses so long as the license is issued in another member state in a manner consistent with the compact terms.

Who is funding this project?

The Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs has funded this project.

When will this project be complete?

This project started in October 2012 and will be complete by May 2014. The current proposal includes two phases:

1. National Advisory Panel (complete)
 - a. The National Advisory Panel (NAP) was formed and tasked with examining

the current landscape of challenges facing state licensure of EMS personnel and to present a set of solution-oriented recommendations for inclusion in a new model interstate compact. The NAP has developed a set of formal recommendations to guide the development of a model interstate compact, to include the high-level provisions that should be included in the compact.

2. Drafting and Compact Development / Educational Materials (in progress)
 - a. The Drafting Team is charged with taking the theory-based NAP recommendations and making them operational via draft legislation. The expert Drafting Team will meet four times during the following seven month period to develop a draft model interstate compact based on the recommendations of the advisory group and their own expertise.

What organizations are part of the National Advisory Panel?

- American Ambulance Association
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- Association of Air Medical Services
- Association of Critical Care Transport
- Bureau of Land Management (US Department of Interior)
- EMS Labor Alliance
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (US Department of Justice)
- Federation of State Medical Boards
- International Association of EMS Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Association of Flight & Critical Care Paramedics
- International Paramedic
- National Association of EMS Educators
- National Association of EMS Physicians
- National Association of EMTs
- National Association of State EMS Officials
- National EMS Management Association
- National Governors Association
- National Park Service (US Department of Interior)
- National Registry of EMTs
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- Forest Service (US Department of Agriculture)

What are the final recommendations of the National Advisory Panel?

Compact Conditions:

- The EMS personnel must have a current, valid, unrestricted license to practice at or above the level of an Emergency Medical Technician issued by a state, US territory, or the District of Columbia
- The EMS personnel must be at least 18 years old
- The authorized government agency by which the EMS personnel are licensed *currently* uses the minimum criteria outlined in the compact pertaining to individual licensure, to include, at a minimum:
 - A requirement to pass a cognitive and psychomotor exam, the details of which will be determined during the compact drafting phase
 - A requirement to pass a background check, the exact type of which will be determined during the compact drafting phase
- The EMS personnel were requested or deployed by an agency having jurisdiction, which includes but is not limited to:
 - Incident commander
 - An employer with statutory or contractual authority to conduct operations in that geographical area
 - A medical care facility for a patient in their system
 - A public safety answering point or other communications center responsible for requesting EMS resources

Recommended scenarios to be covered by the provisions of compact:

- The EMS personnel and patient originate in the state in which the EMS personnel are licensed and transport the patient to another state
- The EMS personnel originate in the state in which the EMS personnel are licensed and respond into another to pick up a patient and provide care and transportation while returning to their state of origin
- The EMS personnel originate in the state in which the EMS personnel are licensed and respond into another to pick up a patient and provide care and transportation within that state
- The EMS personnel originate in the state in which the EMS personnel are licensed and respond into another to pick up a patient and provide care and transportation to a third state (e.g., MD-DC-VA)

- The EMS personnel are based and licensed in one state and are the first due responders or mutual aid providers under local governmental or interagency agreement/contract to an area of an another state
- The EMS personnel are based and licensed in one state and as part of their federal and/or state employment capacity operate in another state, regardless of patient origin and destination
- The EMS personnel are based and licensed in one state and as part of their federal, state, state contractor or federal interagency cooperator capacity operate in another state, regardless of patient origin and destination
- The EMS personnel originate in the state in which the EMS personnel are licensed and respond into another upon being dispatched to a major incident (e.g., multicasualty scene), provide care and may transport within the incident state
- The EMS personnel originate in the state in which the EMS personnel are licensed and respond into another upon being dispatched to a formally declared disaster, provide care and may transport within or outside the incident state
- Pending further development during the compact drafting stage, possibly the ability to work in a state to which the EMS personnel have moved for some duration, while application for licensure in the new state is pending.

Will this compact give EMS providers automatic reciprocity?

The compact definitions will distinguish between immediate legal recognition under short term and intermittent conditions that is intended to “cover” an individual without any notification to or paperwork being filed with the destination state EMS office. Reciprocity is a scenario where an individual with a license in one state seeks to gain a license issued by a second state. The only discussion to date related to reciprocity is whether the license from the state (and likely branch of the armed services) of origin could be used temporarily by EMS personnel who have initiated the application process to be issued a license by the second state. The specifics of this, if it can be accommodated at all in the interstate compact, will be determined by the drafting team.

Does this relieve an EMS agency from being licensed in a state in which they do business?

No. The compact will not relax or eliminate requirements for state licensure of EMS agencies with which the EMS personnel are affiliated; the power for agency regulation will remain in the hands of the state.

What will be the minimum numbers of states required to sign on to activate the compact?

10 states

Who can I contact for more information on this project?

For more information on this project, contact NASEMSO Executive Director Dia Gainor at dia@nasemsso.org.