



Physical Therapy Licensure Compact: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC)?

The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC) creates a new way for PTs and PTAs to practice or work in multiple states. In order to participate in the PTLC, states must opt in by adopting the PTLC through legislation. PTs and PTAs in participating states will have the option of obtaining a “compact privilege” to practice or work in another participating state if they meet certain criteria.

2. Which states have joined the PTLC?

Twenty one (21) states have adopted the PTLC legislation so far: Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.

3. What is the Physical Therapy Compact Commission?

The Physical Therapy Compact Commission (“Commission”) is the administrative body overseeing the implementation of the PTLC in states that choose to participate. Each participating state has a representative on the Commission who must be either a current member of the state’s physical therapy licensing board (PT, PTA, or public member), or the licensing board administrator. APTA and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) are also each provided a non-voting representative on the Commission’s Executive Board. The Commission administers the compact through its adopted rules and bylaws and operates the system through which member states share information about their licensees and through which licensees may purchase compact privileges. Compact privileges are issued by the Commission to eligible PTs and PTAs in participating states who apply through ptcompact.org. The Commission also sets fees for compact privileges.

4. What is a compact privilege?

A compact privilege is the authorization to work in a PTLC member state other than your home state. To qualify for a compact privilege, a PT or PTA is required to have a license in their home state and meet other eligibility criteria, such as having no disciplinary action against any license for at least two years. When eligibility is verified and all fees are paid, the licensee receives the compact privilege and may begin legally working in the other “remote” state.

5. What are the requirements for a PT or PTA to obtain a compact privilege?

- Hold a valid, current, unrestricted license in the home state (state of primary residence);
- Be free of any disciplinary action against a license or compact privilege for two years;
- Meet any jurisprudence requirements of the remote state;
- Apply to the Commission for a compact privilege in a remote state and pay required fees.



6. What is a home state?

The Commission's [rules](#) define "home state" as "a person's true, fixed, and permanent home and is the place where the person intends to remain indefinitely, and to which the person expects to return if absent without intending to establish a new domicile elsewhere."

7. What is a remote state?

A remote state is a state that is participating in the PTLC, other than the PT or PTA's home state, and where the PT or PTA wants to obtain a compact privilege.

8. How much will it cost to get a compact privilege?

The Commission currently charges a fee of \$45 per state in which the individual chooses to obtain compact privileges. An individual meeting eligibility criteria can choose to obtain a compact privilege in as many states as are participating in the compact. Additionally, each participating state may choose to impose its own fee, separate from the Commission's fee. State fees can be found [here](#).

9. How can I apply for compact privileges?

PTs and PTAs who want a compact privilege in a participating state may apply to the Commission through the Commission's website, ptcompact.org. As of this update, compact privileges are available in Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, and Tennessee, Texas, Utah. To purchase compact privileges in any of these states, visit ptcompact.org. Privileges will be available in additional states in the near future. For information on eligibility requirements and other topics related to compact privileges, visit <http://ptcompact.org/resources-tools>.

10. What rules will govern the treatments I am allowed to offer my patients in the PTLC member states?

Rules of practice and scope of practice are determined by the state where the physical therapy service is delivered, just as they are now. If a PT or PTA delivers physical therapy in a remote state under a compact privilege, the rules of practice in the remote state apply. In the case of telehealth, the point of service delivery is generally determined by the physical location of the patient.

11. Will I have to maintain continuing education/competence requirements in the states where I hold compact privileges?

Individuals with compact privileges will not need to meet the specific continuing education/competence requirements in states where they hold those compact privileges. Rather, the licensee will only have to meet any continuing education/competence required for licensure renewal of the home state license.



12. For what period of time is a compact privilege valid?

A compact privilege will be valid for the same period as the home state license, and will be renewed on the same cycle as the home state license. For example, if a home state license is valid January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020, and a compact privilege is obtained in a

different PTLC state on June 30, 2018, the compact privilege and home state license will both be valid until December 31, 2020. This also means that if the compact privilege is obtained on December 30, 2020, it is still only valid until the expiration of the home state license on December 31, 2020, and the compact privilege will need to be renewed at that time.

13. I don't meet the eligibility criteria for a compact privilege. Does this mean I can't practice or work in a PTLC state?

Not necessarily. The PTLC gives eligible PTs and PTAs the *option* of obtaining a compact privilege to practice or work in participating states, instead of going through a state's traditional licensure process when they already have a license in their state of primary residence. Individuals who don't meet the criteria for a compact privilege might still be eligible for a license in their PTLC-participating home state if they meet criteria for licensure in that state. Applications for licensure will continue to be managed and processed by individual states, not by the Compact Commission. Individuals who are eligible for a compact privilege may also choose instead to get a license in any state if they meet the criteria for licensure.

14. If Mary is a PT licensed in her home state of Utah and wants to take a travel therapy assignment in Arizona for 13 weeks, would Mary be required to obtain a license in the state of Arizona or would her current and unrestricted Utah license allow her to practice without submitting any additional applications?

In order for Mary to provide physical therapy in Arizona she must have authorization from the state of Arizona to do so, either through an Arizona license or a compact privilege from the PT Compact Commission. In order to obtain a compact privilege, her home state (Utah) must be a member of the Compact. Mary will need a license in her home state (Utah) and will need to have had a license free from discipline for at least 2 years.

Assuming in this example that both Utah and Arizona are members of the PTLC, Mary could apply for a compact privilege to practice in Arizona through the PT Compact Commission. If Arizona was not a PTLC member state, Mary would need to apply for a license to practice in Arizona through the state's licensure application process.

**This FAQ will be updated as additional information becomes available. If you have questions regarding the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, please email advocacy@apta.org.
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