

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

What is the Physical Therapy Compact?

The Physical Therapy Compact (PT Compact) provides a streamlined alternative pathway for eligible licensed physical therapists (PTs) to practice and licensed physical therapist assistants (PTAs) to work in a Compact member state, other than their home state, without going through the usual process for licensure in the remote state.

What Impact Does the PT Compact have on Current Scope of Practice?

The PT Compact is separate legislation from the Physical Therapy Practice Act and does not change the scope of practice of PTs and PTAs.

Why is the PT Compact Needed in Your State?

The PT Compact is needed to meet workforce needs, provide greater consumer access to physical therapy care, and address licensure portability issues for military spouses that are PTs and PTAs. By creating a streamlined mechanism for licensed PTs and PTAs to practice across state lines, the Compact will help connect consumers with the physical therapy services they need. The PT Compact is a faster, cheaper, and easier alternate pathway to get the privilege to practice.

How does the PT Compact assist military spouses?

In the PT Compact, a military spouse is given the option to use the home-of-record, permanent change of station, or state where currently residing as the home state. This increased flexibility allows three chances to select a PT Compact member state for eligibility. The PT Compact means the military spouse will not experience long delays waiting for licensure and can resume working almost immediately after a duty-required move.

How does the PT Compact work?

Eligible PTs and PTAs in Compact member states currently issuing and accepting compact privileges have the option of obtaining a compact privilege in other PT Compact member states. To be eligible, the licensee must:

- Have permanent residence in a PT Compact state that is issuing compact privileges (home state);
- Hold a valid license in his or her permanent state of residence;
- Complete any jurisprudence requirements for the state(s) in which they are seeking compact privileges;
 and
- Be free of disciplinary action for at least two years and have no encumbrances on any license.

The PT Compact Commission verifies eligibility, issues compact privileges, and notifies the remote state of the individual's authorization to provide physical therapy services under the compact privilege within a matter of minutes.

What states are currently part of the PT Compact?

33 states and D.C. are members of the PT Compact. A map of all states is available at ptcompact.org.

Is there any opposition to the PT Compact?

There is no known opposition. Both the professional association and the regulatory boards support the PT Compact. There is no impact on other professions.

How can you help your state join the PT Compact?

The PT Compact is seeking sponsors and support to introduce legislation in 2023. If you are interested in supporting legislation or to learn more contact the PT Compact at 703-299-3100 ext. 239 or info@ptcompact.org.