



New Mexico Medical Board Presentation September 14, 2022

Purpose:

The New Mexico Medical Board is responsible for the regulation and licensing of medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy (physicians), physician assistants, anesthesiologist assistants, genetic counselors, polysomnographic technologists, doctors of naprapathy and naturopathic doctors to assure protection of the public.

Statutory Authority:

The authorization of the Board is set forth in the New Mexico Medical Practice Act, N. M. S. A. 1978, § 61-6-1 through § 61-6-35, including Article 6A Genetic Counseling Act, Article 6B Polysomnography Practice Act, Article 6C Physician Assistant Act, Article 6D Anesthesiologist Assistant Act, Article 12F Naprapathic Practice Act and Article 12G Naturopathic Doctors' Practice Act.

Licensing:

One of the fundamental responsibilities of a state medical board is to assure that applicants for licensure meet all the requirements established by statutes and rules. Through its licensing program, the Board ensures that all applicants provide the necessary documentation and verifications required for licensure, that the documentation is verified by the licensing staff, and that the license is issued as soon as the application is complete and all requirements have been met.

Board Efforts to Expand Access to Care and Expedite Licensure:

- In 2018, the NMMB worked with the NM Academy of Physician Assistants to amend the Medical Practice Act to allow appropriately experienced PA's to practice primary care without physician supervision.
- Naturopaths were added as licensed health providers in 2020.
- In 2022, the NMMB promulgated a new rule allowing licensure for residency training by foreign medical graduates who have been vetted and approved for a board-approved post-graduate training program and hold an Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification. This broadened the candidate pool and simplified requirements.
- In May of 2022, to expedite the physician licensure process, the NMMB partnered with the New Mexico Hospital Services Corporation (HSC) to process ALL incoming licensure applications. To date HSC has processed 186 physician applications in an average of 31.9 days from receipt of application to license issuance. HSC has processed 46 Telemedicine applications in an average of 9.11 days from receipt of application to license issuance.
- In May of 2022 the NMMB received \$1,827,327 to upgrade the licensing system to streamline and unify disparate processes and better serve their constituency by using the Salesforce LPI solution which streamlines back-end processes and standardizes licensing data, providing a comprehensive view of licensing requests and a digital experience for users. This upgrade will provide real time application status' on the NMMB website and allow licensees and applicants to easily communicate with Board staff via chat, email or text messaging.

Recommendation:

The NMMB respectfully requests consideration of engaging in the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact** to facilitate licensure and expand access to physicians. The Compact is a national entity that does first-source verification of physician credentials and issues a certificate that member states can rely on to issue a state license. The Compact does not issue licenses nor supplants the individual states' practice acts including responsibility for discipline.

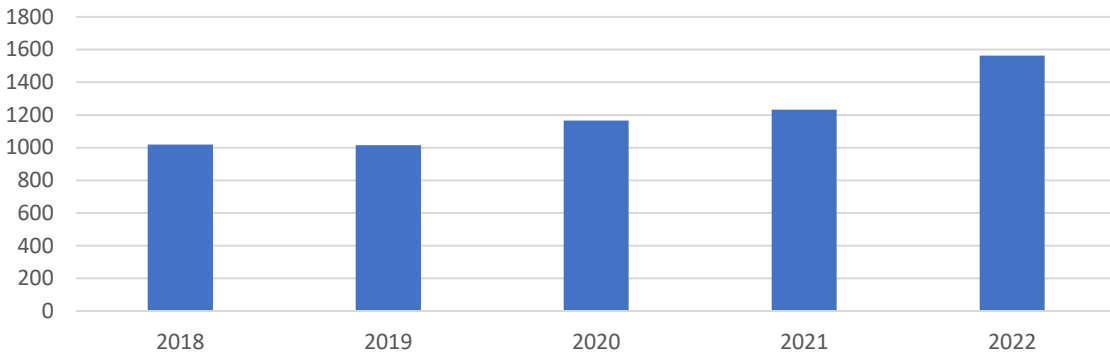
This allows increased access to health care for patients in underserved or rural areas especially by facilitating licensure of locum tenens and telemedicine physicians that hold multiple state licenses.

The Compact currently includes 29 states, the District of Columbia and the Territory of Guam. In these jurisdictions, physicians are licensed by 43 different medical and osteopathic boards.

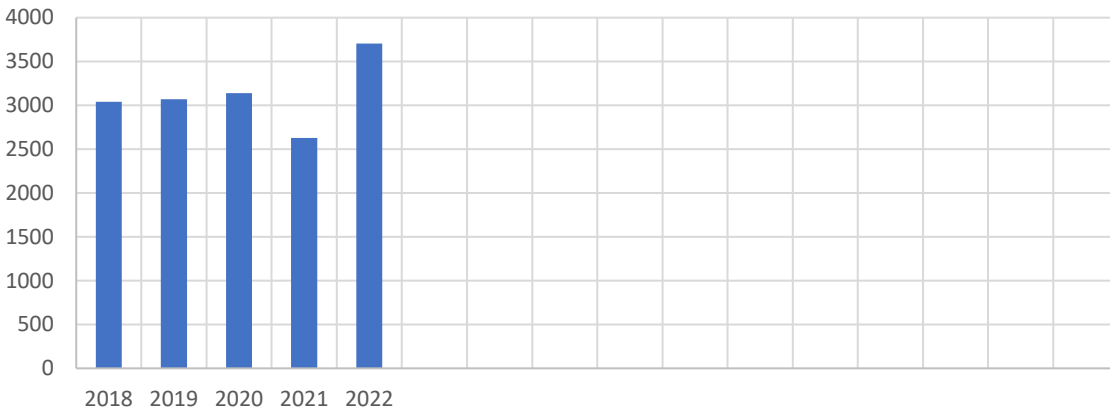
Approximately 80% of U.S. physicians meet the criteria for licensure through the Compact.

During the 2019 New Mexico Legislative Session, Senator Bill O'Neill introduced SB97, that proposed to enact the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in New Mexico. SB97 died in Senate Judiciary.

New Physician Licenses Issued by Fiscal Year



Number of Physician Licenses Renewed by Fiscal Year



Number of Application Processing Days Per FY

