

What is the OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT?

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

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OT Compact is an occupational licensure compact that:

- ✓ Addresses increase demand to provide/ Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistant services.
- ✓ Authorizes both telehealth and in-person practice across state lines in OT Compact states.
- ✓ Is similar in form and function to occupational licensure compacts for nursing, psychology, medicine, physical therapy and emergency medical services.



10 States

OT Compact is operational when 10 states enact the legislation for the compact.



Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTs/OTAs) licensed in their home state apply for a privilege to practice under the OT Compact state lines are a barrier no more.

OT Compact states communicate and exchange information including verification of licensure and disciplinary sanctions.

OT Compact 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 OTs/OTAs have met acceptable standards of practice.



Promoting cooperation between OT Compact states in the areas of licensure and regulation.



Offering a higher degree of consumer protection across state lines.

Impacts



Allowing licensed OTs/OTAs to practice face to face or through telehealth across state lines without having to become licensed in additional OT Compact states.



Permitting OTs/OTAs 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 visit OTcompact.org



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Fact Sheet: States and the OT Compact

The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (OT Compact) will allow licensed Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) to practice *in all states that join the compact*. This will remove the need for practitioners to get an individual license in each state where they want to practice.

The Basics

- The OT Compact is an interstate compact, which is a constitutionally authorized, legally binding contract between states.
- The OT Compact is the same in form and function as other occupational licensure compacts like the Nurse Licensure Compact, the Physical Therapy Compact, and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.
- The OT Compact authorizes in person practice and telepractice based on a valid, unrestricted home state license in other compact member states for both Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs)
- The OT Compact will take effect when 10 states have enacted authorizing legislation.
- The American Occupational Therapy Association is leading the initiative in collaboration with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®). The National Center for Interstate Compacts at the Council of State Governments facilitated the development of the OT Compact and is providing technical assistance.

Benefits

- Preserve and strengthen state licensure systems
- Enhance public safety
- Improve access to Occupational Therapy services
- Increase market opportunities for OTs and OTAs by authorizing practice in member states, including via telehealth
- Enhance mobility for OT practitioners
- Support relocating military spouses
- Improve continuity of care when clients travel or relocate
- Encourage cooperation among compact member states in regulating OT practice

Dispelling the Myths

- As with the existing licensure compacts, the OT Compact has no impact on a state's scope of practice – this is not a takeover of state regulatory authority
- As with existing licensure compacts, the OT Compact leaves state specific licensure requirements in place – this is not a takeover of state licensing systems.
- The OT Compact enhances states' authority to protect the public and regulate the OT profession.
- OTs and OTAs are licensed in all 50 states, with consistency in licensure requirements.
- The OT Compact will have no fiscal implications for states.

The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact is a joint initiative by AOTA and NBCOT®