



## 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®