



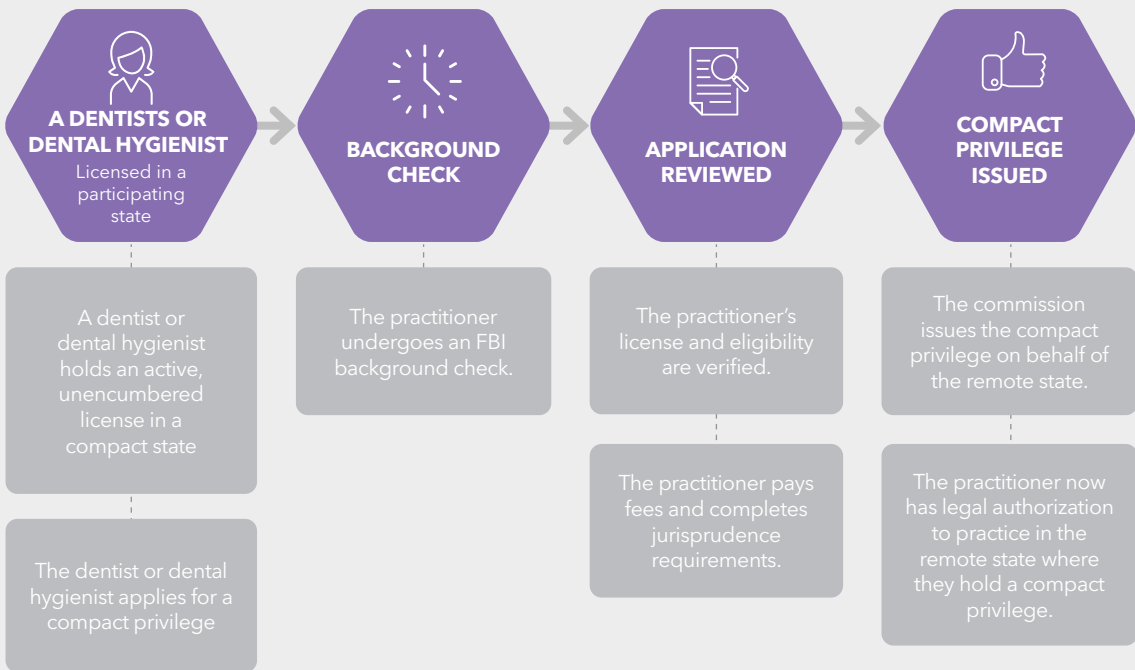
**National Center for  
Interstate Compacts**  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

# Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Fact Sheet

*This project is funded by the Department of Defense*

## What is the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact?

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legally binding, legislatively enacted contracts among states. This compact will enable licensed dentists and dental hygienists to practice in all states participating in the compact, rather than get an individual license in every state in which they want to practice. Like the compact for a driver's license, each compact state agrees to mutually recognize the licenses issued by the other participating states.



## What other professions have an interstate compact?

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and Advanced Practice Nurse Compact (APRN Compact)

Emergency Medical Service Officials Licensure Compact (EMS Compact)

Physical Therapists Licensure Compact (PT Compact)

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)

Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)

Occupational Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact (OT Compact)

Counseling Interstate Licensure Compact

# Who can use the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact?

A dentist or dental hygienist is eligible to participate in the compact if they have:

- An active, unencumbered license in any state participating in the compact.
- Passed the National Board Examination or other exam accepted by the compact commission.
- Completed a clinical assessment.
- Graduated from an education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- No disqualifying criminal history.

## BENEFITS OF DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS LICENSING COMPACT FOR LICENSEES:



Facilitates multistate practice.



Enhances license portability when changing state of residence.



Expands employment opportunities into new markets.



Improves continuity of care when patients or providers relocate.



Supports relocating military spouses.



Reduces burden of maintaining multiple licenses.

## BENEFITS OF DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS LICENSING COMPACT FOR REGULATORS:



Reduces administrative burden.



Facilitates practitioner mobility during public health emergencies.



Ensures retention of jurisdiction over practitioners working in their state.



Expands state licensure board cooperation on investigations and disputes.



Enhances public safety through shared data system.

## BENEFITS OF DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS LICENSING COMPACT FOR STATES:



Promotes workforce development and strengthens labor markets.



Expands consumer access to highly qualified practitioners.



Preserves state sovereignty.



Increases collaboration among states.

## What's Next?

Interstate compacts take time to develop and implement because of the necessary coordination among state legislatures, state regulatory boards and the compact commission.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) will facilitate a stakeholder review process to receive input and feedback on the draft of the model legislation. The goal is for this legislation to be ready for introduction during state 2023 legislative sessions. Legislatures must enact the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact model legislation in order for their state to be a participant.

To get involved in the stakeholder review process or learn more about advocating for the compact, please visit <https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/dentistry-and-dental-hygiene/>.