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SUMMARY

The cost to participate in the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact is primarily dependent on variables at the individual state level, such as the cost to onboard to the compact's data system. Compact costs are balanced against a state's direct revenue options through the compact, such as charging a state-determined fee for a privilege to practice, as well as the operational efficiencies that can be realized by a state's licensing board.

COST OF IMPLEMENTATION AND STATE REVENUE OPTIONS

Data System

The compact data system is responsible for the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information between member states and facilitates the granting of a compact privilege to practice. Once the data system is available, the cost for states to onboard to the data system will be largely state specific depending on their current capabilities, internal costs, and desired level of integration. For example, a state may wish to exchange its licensure data through a manual file submission or through an automatic exchange. A state that currently does not have the infrastructure for an automatic data exchange might experience more initial costs than those who rely on manual uploads.

The compact data system design will be structured to be as accommodating as possible to the member states to facilitate onboarding. However, because there are varying cost factors across states, there is no universal estimate that can be used for all states.

Staff Time

Licensing authority staff must also facilitate inputting data into the compact data system (i.e. information on compact eligible practitioners and adverse actions). The data system streamlines and expedites issuing compact privileges, so the time spent inputting data is offset in the long term against the reduction in staff time spent processing out-of-state applications when an RT is authorized to practice through the compact pathway instead of the traditional, single state licensure pathway. As more RTs use the compact pathway instead of the single state licensure pathway, licensing authorities will spend less time manually processing applications.

State Revenue

To offset any costs of the compact and loss of single state licensure revenue, each compact member state may charge a fee for the compact privileges they issue. The fee is set by the compact member state in an amount of their choosing.