



## **Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Law**

### **Protecting Athletic Trainers and Sport Medicine Professionals**

In early October 2018, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act (P.L. 115-254). The National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) led the sport medicine community for over five years in educating and advocating Members of Congress about the importance of protecting those Sports Medicine professionals who routinely travel with teams and engage in the treatment of injured athletes across state lines at great professional and personal risk.

Prior to the signing of this law, many states had no legal protection for sports medicine professionals whose jobs often require travel outside of their primary state where they are licensed. This was because medical liability insurance carriers did not cover activities performed while outside the boundary of their primary state. As such, providers were at great personal and professional risk while executing their profession by not having the benefit of medical liability insurance.

Under the law, health care services provided by a covered sports medicine professional to an athlete, an athletic team, or a staff member of the team outside of his or her home state would be deemed to have occurred in the professional's primary state of licensure. Medical services provided in the secondary state will be treated as occurring in the primary state, if the secondary state's licensure requirements are substantially similar to the primary state.

The law extends the liability insurance coverage of a state-licensed medical professional to another state when the professional provides medical services to an athlete, athletic team, or team staff member pursuant to a written agreement. Prior to providing such services, the medical professional must disclose to the insurer the nature and extent of the services. This extension of coverage does not apply at a health care facility or while a medical professional licensed in the state is transporting the injured individual to a health care facility.

Sports medicine professionals can now engage in the treatment of injured athletes across state lines without fear of great professional harm, such as loss of license to practice, while protected from monetary loss with professional liability insurance.