



## **Report of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants for the Physician Assistant Education Association**

*October 2018*

I am pleased to submit the following report of current and emerging initiatives on behalf of the NCCPA Board of Directors and Staff.

### **Update on Pilot Alternative to PANRE**

---

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, registration closed for enrollment in the Pilot Alternative to PANRE. More than 58% (18,739) of the eligible PAs (those due to recertify in 2018 and 2019), elected to participate.

The PANRE Pilot will be conducted over two years (2019-2020), starting in January. Participants will answer twenty-five, core medical knowledge test questions each quarter, receiving immediate feedback on each question and additional educational information about the topic.

This strategy will enable participants to demonstrate current medical knowledge, utilizing any web accessible device. We anticipate that it will address some of the concerns we have heard from PAs about the time, cost and challenge of preparing for and taking the traditional PANRE. It also reflects our evolving technological capabilities, current trends in assessment and our responsibilities to those who rely on the PA-C credential. Participants will also be asked to provide feedback throughout the process, which will help inform the Board's consideration of PANRE, after the pilot period ends.

Recertification assessments administered in 2019 for both the alternative to PANRE pilot and the traditional PANRE will be based on a new core medical knowledge blueprint, published earlier this year.

### **AAPA and NCCPA Partner for a PA Public Awareness Campaign**

---

To help increase awareness and promote the role of certified PAs to the public stakeholder groups, the Board of Directors approved support of a PA awareness program. NCCPA has partnered with the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to help increase the public's awareness of the PA profession through a nationwide marketing and public awareness campaign. Advertising will include a half-page advertisement in USA Today, along with 60 newspapers in the USA Today Network, in communities nationwide. The campaign, launched earlier this year, will also include an integrated mix of video, print, radio, and digital components and will run through the middle of 2019.

## **Examination of the NCCPA's CAQ Program**

---

The Board continued its comprehensive evaluation of the NCCPA's Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) program. The CAQ program, launched in 2012, provides PAs working in select specialties, an opportunity to earn an additional credential following completion of additional, specialized CME; demonstrated clinical experiences, and successful completion of an assessment. The Board's evaluation of the CAQ program relied on survey and outcomes data from CAQ holders, feedback from PAs working in CAQ specialties and consideration of issues from key stakeholder perspectives. The Board affirmed its commitment to the continuation of the CAQ program and charged staff to explore the identified non-exam elements (i.e. # and specification of CME, # of hours of experience, physician attestation, fee, etc.) and potential alternatives to the process for CAQ maintenance.

## **Research, Data and Outreach**

---

NCCPA reports information from the PA Professional Profile, with aggregate data provided by more than 90% of Certified PAs. Staff and leadership are invited to deliver dozens of presentations on PA workforce data at state PA and specialty meetings each year. This year, NCCPA has been invited to present before new audiences including the Uniformed Health Services, PA Veterans Caucus, the Indian Association of PAs and several military PA groups. Highlights of the presentations are promoted on NCCPA social media channels and NCCPA News.

PA educators and researchers are reminded that NCCPA continues to field data requests. The procedures for such data requests are posed on the NCCPA website.

## **PAEA Partnership**

---

NCCPA is pleased to continue to work with PAEA in support of the PAEA's End of Rotation™ Exam program, a partnership that has been in effect since the inception of the EOR program. We entered year one of the second Phase of the PAEA assessment programs in January. Performance metrics and feedback have been positive. Work continues in earnest in the development of PAEA's End of Curriculum Exam. We look forward to continuing to support PAEA and its member programs in this important way.

We value our relationships with PAEA, PA programs, program leaders, and faculty members. Last month, we hosted our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Program Educators Workshop, with the largest attendance ever. In addition to item writing and performance interpretation skills development, participants received programmatic updates on all aspects of NCCPA's work and presentations by PAEA, ARC-PA and the NCCPA supporting organizations. Plans are already underway to offer another workshop in the Spring.

In keeping with NCCPA's commitment to ongoing dialogue with our sister national PA organizations, in addition to the annual Cross Org meetings, NCCPA looks forward to extending an invitation to PAEA leaders to attend one of the 2019 board meetings.

**PAEA Nominee to NCCPA Board of Directors** \_\_\_\_\_

The NCCPA Board of Directors and staff extends its most sincere thanks and appreciation to Mary Warner for her service as the PAEA nominee to the NCCPA Board. She has served NCCPA with distinction for two terms (8 years), as a valuable board member, chair of several committees and as Chair-Elect, 2017 Chair and immediate Past Chair this year. We are grateful to her for her commitment to the PA NCCPA and her strong leadership.

Pat Kenney-Moore, Ed.D, PA-C, was nominated to the NCCPA by the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), earlier this year. She was elected to a 4-year term to begin service in January 2019. We look forward to Pat's participation and leadership on the Board of Directors.

Paul Lombardo and I thank you for the opportunity to submit this report and to share brief remarks during business meeting in Anaheim. We will welcome your questions at that time, as well.

Thank you.

Best regards,



Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C

President/CEO

[dmorton-rias@nccpa.net](mailto:dmorton-rias@nccpa.net)

---

*The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is the only certifying organization for physician assistants (PAs) in the United States. The PA-C credential is awarded by NCCPA to PAs who graduate from accredited PA education programs and then fulfill certification, certification maintenance, and recertification requirements. Today there are more than 127,000 certified PAs.*

---