

January 22, 2016

Dear NCCPA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA) Board of Directors and Advocacy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit commentary regarding the most recently proposed recertification process model for PAs.

PAs have been asking for years for a simpler and more streamlined process for certification. The new model, as proposed, would add another layer of undue burden on PAs, employers, and the health care system overall, thus negatively impacting the PA profession. While we understand there are challenges to reconcile the various needs of PAs in all specialties, there is no research that PA recertification exams have a positive impact on patient safety, outcomes or satisfaction. We strongly believe competency is better judged at the practice level.

NCCPA has a duty to protect the public. The initial certification exam is the standard, and beyond that, employers of PAs and state laws ensure the safe practice of PAs in every setting. Employers have in place credentialing committees and quality assurance programs, as well as a standard process for conducting professional, focused performance evaluations at the practice level. State laws have appropriate mechanisms in place to monitor safety and competence, and to discipline a provider for practicing outside of his or her scope or who is found negligent.

We urge you to eliminate the PANRE and replace recertification with more relevant methods of providing specialty-specific continuing medical education to enhance the knowledge base of clinically practicing PAs in the United States. We urge you to consider PANCE a permanent certification process, similar to that offered for our professional counterparts, and maintain certification with CME based on the PAs area of practice.

NCCPA is arguably the most influential arm of the four organizations tasked with the oversight of the PA profession. WAPA urges you to implement changes that simplify an already outmoded and outdated recertification model, and contribute not only to patient safety and practice relevance, but to the advancement of the PA profession.

Sincerely,



Christine Longoria, PA-C
President