



Veteran Affairs Physician Assistant Association, Inc.

NCCPA Board of Directors
12000 Findley Road, Suite 100
Johns Creek, GA 30097-1409

To the NCCPA Board of Directors,

We, the Officers and Board Members of the Veterans Affairs Physician Assistant Association (VAPAA), feel compelled to contact NCCPA regarding the proposed changes to the certification process.

The NCCPA's proposed recertification model is of great concern to our organization and to our constituent PAs.

As a constituent organization of AAPA, and a specialty organization of federally employed PAs, we wanted to ensure our collective voices were heard in regards to the proposed changes. The VAPAA board sent out a survey to the members to get their opinions about the proposed changes to the process of recertification and maintenance of Physician Assistant licensure. The majority of our responses from membership were from those who have worked at the VA for greater than 10 year with both knowledge and experience of the recertification process. The members work in all areas of medicine including ambulatory care, surgical and emergency medicine.

The majority of our membership expressed satisfaction with the past recertification process of testing every 6 years with 100 hours of CME every 2 years. Many of our members were in favor of moving to a 10 year testing cycle with continued CME requirements as currently required. Some would like to complete CME without need to undergo recertification with testing. If testing was deemed necessary by the NCCPA, VAPAA would recommend 10 year testing with continuation of CME requirements as currently required.

It is noteworthy, that the overwhelming majority of respondents strongly oppose the SA and PI requirements being proposed. Our membership noted both the costs and time associated with the proposed requirements as being burdensome. Of greatest concern regarding the SA and PI from our membership were the PI requirements. The VA, which is the largest employer of Physician Assistants in the country, serves a unique role in our nation's health care setting. It does not permit the Physician Assistant practice to easily comply with PI requirements. Many of our members work in administrative roles and SA/PI would not be applicable to their job functions nor would the opportunities be available.

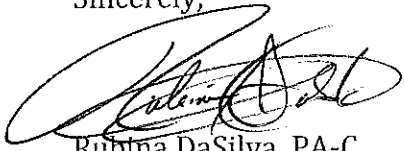
We believe that further dialogue needs to continue with NCCPA and its stakeholders on the best course of action prior to implementation of the proposed changes.

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We, the members of the Veteran Affairs Physician Assistant Association, appreciate your continued commitment to our profession. We would welcome any comments or questions from your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rubina DaSilva', written over a large, loopy flourish.

Rubina DaSilva, PA-C
President

Veterans Affairs Physician Assistant Association (VAPAA)

2016 VAPAA Board of Directors

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