

PA Survey Results, Other Evidence Released to Inform Debate about the Proposed Recertification Model

Last November, the NCCPA Board of Directors published a potential new model for the PA recertification exam to PAs and others for comments and feedback. Since 2014, NCCPA has been gathering information, studying the literature, and surveying constituents, and that work continues.

Our approach has been thoughtful and measured. The NCCPA Board remains committed to gathering input from PAs and other stakeholders and considering all the evidence before making any decision. That data-gathering work is still in progress.

Unfortunately, some have made sweeping, public claims that we have no evidence to support this model. *That is patently untrue.* We are answering that falsehood today with three new documents.

1. [The Evidence Base: A Compendium of the Data and Research Informing the Two-Part Recertification Model Under Consideration by NCCPA](#) – This document relates feedback from PAs and from data about PA practice patterns to the model under consideration. It also includes a more complete presentation of the literature related to the type of testing included in this model than has been presented by any party to this discussion to date. *Anyone who believes or claims there is no “research” supporting what NCCPA has proposed should read this document.*
2. [Refutation of AAPA HOD Resolution Supporting Citations](#) – AAPA’s House of Delegates will soon consider a number of resolutions that call for the elimination of recertification exams altogether. Those resolutions include gross misinterpretation of published research, in some cases citing statements out of context that actually run *counter* to the conclusions reached by the papers’ authors. In this document, we offer our view of those cited works and encourage the critical reader to consider this evidence in the same way you approach review of medical literature. While clinicians rely on medical literature to inform thinking about treatment options, we do not rely on the findings of a single study. Rather, we usually assess findings from a variety of sources and meta analyses, interpret the findings, and assess those against our patient populations and the individual patient as we make decisions. No single study and certainly no single statement from a summation of a single study should be viewed in isolation.
3. [PA Survey Results](#) - In February, NCCPA sent a survey about the proposed model to more than 90,000 certified PAs. The purpose of that survey was to gather PA feedback on the model under consideration, gauge the degree to which PAs feel this

potential new approach would address the issues we seek to address, and to assess PA preferences that can be used to finalize details of this model if it is selected for implementation. More than 30,000 PAs took the time to take the survey, which is many times over what is considered a statistically significant sample to represent the population of certified PAs.

The complete report on findings is available online. Highlights include the following:

- 62% of PAs prefer the proposed model over the current one, with 11% expressing no preference.
- The survey identified 19 specialty areas in which an exam *may* be offered in this new model. 58% of PAs who did *not* have an exam option listed in their specialty area favored the proposed model. 29% of those PAs preferred the current PANRE, and 13% had no preference.
- Overall, nearly 70% believe that the proposed model would be less stressful than the current PANRE.
- 65% feel that the take-at-home core knowledge exam would better promote staying current with general medical knowledge than the existing PANRE.

The Bottom Line

NCCPA continues to listen, learn and consider the proposed PANRE model from the perspectives of PAs, the public, employers, and state licensing boards. We ask that those who would engage in public debate about this make an effort to be similarly well informed.

We will continue to publish new data and information as we go forward in this process.

To view the documents above and read more information on the proposed recertification model, go to <https://www.nccpa.net/panre-model>. If you have questions or comments, email newpanre@nccpa.net.

NCCPA
12000 Findley Road, Suite 100
Johns Creek, GA 30097-1409
P: 678.417.8100 | F: 678.417.8135
nccpa@nccpa.net | www.nccpa.net

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