



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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March 9, 2016

Dear NCCPA Board of Directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the proposed recertification changes.

I write you today on behalf of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants Board of Directors, whom after discussion of the matter, are not in support of the recently proposed changes for recertification of our nation's physician assistants.

We feel that the proposed changes will place an undue burden on our state's PAs. We continue to see one of the changes to be "periodic take-at-home exams," but without any clarification of what "periodic" is. For a busy PA that is managing work, family, volunteer and other commitments, having to find time for a "periodic" exam is burdensome.

The end of cycle specialty exam we feel to potentially be a slippery slope. The NCCPA has offered the CAQ as an option for PAs if they so choose. If they do not so choose then that is their decision and it should not be forced upon them. One of the greatest abilities of our profession is to be able to work in various specialties, not just over a career, but even at the same time. Beginning to take exams that fit the PA into a particular area could be potentially detrimental down the line. While it is understood that the Family Medicine exam will be similar to the current PANRE, it would still have that label of Family Medicine. For the PAs working in a specialized area, for which the specialty exams may not be applicable, that could potentially be problematic if licensing boards, hospitals, etc., begin to require specialties as a result of the NCCPA's changes.

CME has been proven to be an acceptable means of updating one's knowledge base and keeping current with evidence based medicine. A new recertification model should focus on CME as a requirement, not more testing, with the PANRE being the initial and only testing requirement.

Unfortunately the survey that was solicited by the NCCPA was flawed, as it did not allow for the suggestion of other models of certification from the nation's PAs. I would respectfully suggest another survey that allows for PAs to appropriately have choice in answers and power in suggestion.

I thank you for your time, your efforts, and for agreeing to allow the AAPA's House of Delegates to meet prior to issuing a final decision. I look forward to the conversation to be had in San Antonio, and hope that the NCCPA will join us for the conversation.

Respectfully,

Jason P. Prevelige, MHS, PA-C
President

Cc: American Academy of Physician Assistants