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## **NCCPA Supports Best Practices Based on Recertification Research**

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In February, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) announced that it had engaged the RAND Corporation to study and compare recertification requirements in the U.S. and abroad. NCCPA supports best practices in certification and certification maintenance, and welcomes any study that adds to our extensive body of research.

NCCPA is committed to continuously examine, evolve and improve the recertification process, considering trends in assessment, advances in technology and the needs and expectations of our stakeholders.

We have conducted a comprehensive review of NCCPA's recertification strategies and have sought input from all certified PAs through profession-wide surveys and in-person meetings with hundreds of PAs. Based on this review and certificant feedback:

- Self-assessment and performance improvement CME are now optional;
- PANRE has transitioned to core medical knowledge, which represents the body of knowledge that all PAs need to know regardless of practice area; and
- An alternative to PANRE pilot, also based on core medical knowledge, is being offered to PAs who need to pass PANRE in 2018 or 2019.

The pilot alternative to PANRE incorporates the latest insights into new testing methodologies and technologies, and can be taken on any device, anywhere, and over a period of time. It also provides immediate feedback coupled with a list of resources to support continuous learning.

NCCPA believes these changes are making the certification maintenance process more relevant, while acknowledging the changes in how people learn, process and confirm their knowledge on applicable topics.

As the independent organization dedicated to ensuring the integrity of the chosen profession of more than 123,000 PAs, NCCPA knows that the PA-C credential is important to patients, PAs and the communities we serve. The NCCPA Board of Directors and staff fully support our colleagues in their certification and recertification journey, an assurance to patients that PAs provide optimal, high quality care.

**Paul Lombardo, MPS, PA-C Emeritus  
Board Chair, NCCPA**