

# Certified PAs: **Improving Health. Saving Lives. Making a Difference.**



Certified PAs are educated, certified and licensed like physicians. **They are prepared** through advanced degree programs and through a rigorous certification process. **Certified PAs are proven**, as today there are more than 123,000 certified PAs practicing medicine across the nation in every specialty and clinical setting.

**Certification and Certification Maintenance:** PAs must pass a rigorous certification exam administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) to become licensed in any state. Certification is designated by the "PA-C" credential after their name. To remain certified, PA-Cs must earn 100 continuing medical education credits every two years and pass a national assessment every 10 years.

## **Certified PAs practice medicine.**

Certified PAs obtain medical histories; examine, diagnose and treat patients; order and interpret diagnostic tests; and recommend and implement treatment plans. They perform minor surgery and assist in major surgery, instruct and counsel patients, order and carry out therapy and prescribe medications. PAs perform these roles within a scope of practice determined by their experience and established by their employer in accordance with state regulations.

## **Certified PAs change lives by:**

- **Expanding access to care** by providing same-day appointments for acute care visits. Certified PAs often treat "walk-in" patients.
- **Serving as primary care providers.** Many have patients who ask for them by name and a full daily appointment schedule of their own.
- **Providing care in remote and underserved areas that don't have doctors.** PAs allow patients to be cared for in their own communities, avoiding the hardships and cost of travel to major medical centers.
- **Managing complex medical conditions and performing intricate procedures.**

### **Verify Certification**

To check a PA's certification status, visit [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)



Most importantly, certified PAs are entrusted by doctors and employers to care for the most important person in their practice - *you*.

**Read more about what PAs do at [www.PAsDoThat.net](http://www.PAsDoThat.net)**