



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Mary Rittle, PR Manager
maryr@nccpa.net
678.417.8142

240 Physician Assistants Nationwide Earn Advanced Credential in 7 Specialties *New in 2014: Hospital Medicine and Pediatrics Specialties*

Johns Creek, GA, Jan. 7, 2015 – Last month, 240 certified physician assistants (PA-Cs) who practice in seven specialties were awarded an advanced credential after completing the requirements to earn a [Certificate of Added Qualifications \(CAQ\)](#) in their specialty.

The credential is conferred by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants ([NCCPA](#)) and has been offered in five specialties since 2011: cardiovascular and thoracic surgery; emergency medicine; nephrology; orthopaedic surgery; and psychiatry. In 2014, NCCPA awarded the first CAQs in hospital medicine and pediatrics. The CAQ requires PAs to fulfill the following specialty requirements:

- 1-2 years clinical experience in the specialty
- 150 continuing medical education (CME) credits related to the specialty
- a written attestation of their skills by the supervising physician specialist
- passing a national specialty exam

A 2014 NCCPA study revealed that over 78 percent of patients trust providers with additional credentials, and the CAQ gives certified PAs the opportunity to prove their experience and specialty qualifications to both patients and employers.

“These certified PAs have shown extraordinary commitment by preparing for and earning the CAQ,” says Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C, president and CEO of NCCPA. “Earning this new specialty credential is a meaningful way to build on the broad, generalist knowledge and skillset required of all certified PAs, a way to go above and beyond to demonstrate additional qualifications in critical specialty areas.”

A list of CAQ recipients by state is available at:

<http://www.nccpa.net/SpecialtyCAQRecipients.aspx>

For more information about the CAQ program, visit www.NCCPA.net/SpecialtyCAQs.

About the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

The [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants \(NCCPA\)](#) is the only certifying organization for physician assistants (PAs) in the United States. The PA-C credential is awarded by NCCPA to PAs who fulfill certification, certification maintenance and recertification requirements. There are approximately 102,000 certified PAs in the U.S. today.