REGISTRATION OPENS FOR NEW HOSPITAL MEDICINE AND PEDIATRIC CERTIFICATE OF ADDED QUALIFICATIONS PROGRAMS FOR CERTIFIED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Johns Creek, Ga, August 27, 2013 – Certified physician assistants (PAs) may now register to attain a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQs) in Hospital Medicine or in Pediatrics, new credentials offered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

“We’re excited to provide certified PAs who have committed themselves to patient care in these important specialties the chance to go beyond their generalist certification and showcase their skills and knowledge to their patients, employers and others,” says Pamela M. Dean, MBA, acting CEO of NCCPA.

Certified PAs in these specialties are expressing their interest in the new programs.

“The CAQ will give me a way to quantify the level of skill and specialized knowledge that I have gained throughout my physician assistant career,” says Dimas J. Valentin, PA-C, MPAS, who practices in hospital medicine. “It will also be an easily recognizable way for patients to tell they are being cared for by a competent individual who has voluntarily gone beyond the required process to prove himself in his chosen career path.”

“It is important as a physician assistant to show my interest and dedication in pursuing my education in pediatrics,” says Lauren Donaldson, PA-C. “The Pediatric CAQ is the perfect opportunity to do that. It will be a testament to my commitment to the field and to the physicians and patients I work with on a daily basis.”

To earn a CAQ in hospital medicine, pediatrics, or one of the other five specialties for which CAQs are already offered, certified PAs must meet licensure, education and experience requirements and then pass an exam in the specialty. The specialty exams are offered
nationwide once a year; the hospital medicine and pediatrics exams will be administered for the first time in September 2014.

Since 2011, NCCPA has offered CAQs in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, emergency medicine, orthopaedic surgery, nephrology and psychiatry.

For more information about NCCPA and the Hospital Medicine and Pediatric CAQs, please visit www.NCCPA.net.

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 92,000 certified PAs in the U.S. today. In 2011, NCCPA launched its Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) program for certified physician assistants practicing in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Nephrology, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Psychiatry; and two new specialties (Pediatrics and Hospital Medicine) are being added in 2014. For more information, please call (678) 417-8100 or visit www.NCCPA.net.

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