



*For immediate release*

**Mary Rittle, Director of Communications**

[maryr@nccpa.net](mailto:maryr@nccpa.net)

**678.417.8142**

## **Certified PAs Transform Specialty Healthcare Teams** *NCCPA Report Showcases Breadth of PAs in 22 Medical Specialties*

**Johns Creek, GA, July 18, 2017** – Newly released data reveals that Certified PAs continue to move into specialty areas, performing medical services and complex procedures in every specialty and clinical setting.

According to the [2016 Statistical Report of Certified Physician Assistants by Specialty](#), a robust workforce of over 115,000 Certified PAs is transforming the delivery of healthcare by adapting to today's integrative healthcare model. The report includes input from over 94 percent of Certified PAs and shows:

- **A continuing trend toward specialization.** Over 70 percent of PAs work in specialties outside primary care, including in highly technical surgical specialties.
- **Healthy workforce gains.** Almost 6,900 new PAs entered the workforce last year indicating the profession continues to be an attractive option for those seeking a medical career with stability, professional fulfillment and flexibility to move across specialties.
- **Two new medical specialties captured.** As America's population lives longer with chronic diseases, pain management and hospice and palliative medicine are growing areas, captured for the first time in this report.
- **PAs are a long-term solution.** More than half of PAs are under the age of 40, providing a workforce that is available to patients as more senior healthcare providers retire.
- **A capacity for growth.** Most of the 69 unique medical and surgical specialties experienced growth, with significant growth found in family medicine, emergency medicine and orthopaedic surgery.
- **Certified PAs meet patients where they live.** PAs are filling care gaps in rural states such as Alaska, Idaho, and Montana where PA-to-patient ratios are higher than most states.
- **Certified PAs in specialties are well compensated.** Certified PAs earn an average salary of over \$104,000 with the highest paid in cardiothoracic surgery, dermatology and emergency medicine.

The report, published by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), is the most comprehensive data available anywhere on PA practice patterns.

"I am proud to see that we are one of the fastest growing medical professions," says Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C, president and CEO of NCCPA. "As the need for cost effective, high quality healthcare increases, so will the vast array of career opportunities and sorely needed patient services—a real win-win. Also, as the profession scales and diversifies, Certified PAs will continue to remain patient-centered, strengthen healthcare teams and deliver on good outcomes in the quality-based healthcare model."

### **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 more than 115,500 Certified PAs in the U.S. today. NCCPA also administers the Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) program for experienced Certified PAs practicing in seven specialties. For more information about Certified PAs, visit [www.PAsDoThat.net](http://www.PAsDoThat.net).