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Over 200 Certified Physician Assistants Nationwide Earn Advanced Credential in Seven Specialties

Johns Creek, GA, Jan. 12, 2016 – Last year, 220 certified physician assistants (PA-Cs) were awarded an advanced credential after completing the requirements to earn a [Certificate of Added Qualifications \(CAQ\)](#) in their specialty. Approximately, 1000 PA-Cs have earned the CAQ to date.

The credential is conferred by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants ([NCCPA](#)) and is offered in seven specialties: cardiovascular and thoracic surgery; emergency medicine; hospital medicine; nephrology; orthopaedic surgery; pediatrics; and psychiatry. 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 document their experience and specialty qualifications for both patients and employers.

“Today, over 73% of PAs work in specialties outside of primary care,” says Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C, president and CEO of NCCPA. “Earning a CAQ demonstrates a PA’s dedication to the specialty, especially considering the commitment to earning substantial specialty CME and preparing for a rigorous exam. These PAs are to be congratulated for their exceptional commitment.”

For a list of CAQ recipients by state, please visit: <http://www.nccpa.net/specialty-caq-recipients>.

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 108,500 certified PAs in the U.S. today.