

Update from NCCPA: Focus on Certification Maintenance for PA Educators

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Disclosure Information

Financial Relationship:

Morton-Rias: NCCPA Employee

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Presentation Outline

- **About NCCPA**
- **Certification Maintenance Process – with focus on PI-CME**
- **Specialty Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) Program**

About NCCPA

- Only national certifying body for PAs
- Certifying PAs since 1975
- Passionate about PAs and the patients you serve
 - Promote qualifications and roles of certified PAs to various audiences (physicians, employers, state medical boards, public, etc.)



Celebrating
40 years
of the PA-C!

Our Purpose



To provide certification programs that reflect standards for clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning and other medical skills and professional behaviors required upon entry into practice and throughout the careers of physician assistants

Our Passion

NCCPA is dedicated to serving the interest of the public.



We so do with a passionate belief that certified PAs are essential members of the health care delivery team who provide millions access to more affordable, high quality health care.

Our Board of Directors

10 PAs, 7 physicians and 2 public members, including nominees from...

- **American Medical Association**
- **American Osteopathic Association**
- **Association of American Medical Colleges**
- **Federation of State Medical Boards**
- **PA Education Association**
- **US Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **American Academies of:**
 - **Family Physicians**
 - **Pediatrics**
 - **Physician Assistants**
- **American Colleges of:**
 - **Emergency Physicians**
 - **Physicians**

But that's only part of the story...

PA Involvement with NCCPA

- 72 PAs served on 2015 **Practice Analysis workgroups**, helping identify the knowledge, skills and abilities that were included on that survey
- Approximately 16,000 PAs responded to the **Practice Analysis survey**
- More than 87,000 PAs have completed the **PA Professional Profile**
- 15 PAs serve on **promotion and publicity councils**, supporting our efforts to generate story ideas and press coverage for the profession

PA Involvement With NCCCPA

- 77 PA item writers serve on **item writing committees**, writing questions that appear on PANCE, PANRE and the CAQ exams
- In 2015, NCCCPA hosted 34 PA team meetings to **develop and validate exam questions, set passing standards**
- In 2015, 28 PAs participated in a 3-day **focus group** to talk about PANRE

NCCPA Statistical Data and Reports

- Nearly 90,000 PAs have provided data through our PA Professional Profile
- Reports available:
 - 2013 Statistical Profile on Certified PAs
 - 2013 Statistical Report on Recently Certified PAs
 - 2013 Income from PA Positions
 - 2014 Statistical Profile on Certified PAs
 - 2014 Statistical Report on Recently Certified PAs
- All are available at no cost at: <http://www.nccpa.net/Research>



**Changes to the
Certification
Maintenance
Process**

How It All Began

- Calls for greater accountability and higher quality in health care spurred major change in physician certification and certification maintenance programs with movement from CME to continuous professional development
- NCCPA felt it appropriate to consider whether similar changes were needed for PAs—with our commitment to the public's interest in mind.
- NCCPA committed first to defining PA competencies and using them as the basis for a holistic review of what we *are* and what we *should be* assessing.
- AAPA, PAEA and ARC-PA all participated in the development of PA competencies and the current revision process

6 Areas of PA Competencies

Part of the rationale for change is incorporating more of these competencies into the process.

- ✓ **1. Medical knowledge**
- 2. Patient care**
- 3. Interpersonal & communication skills**
- 4. Professionalism**
- 5. System-based practice**
- 6. Practice-based learning and improvement**

New Certification Maintenance Process

10

- PANRE every ~~6~~ years
- 100 CME credits every two years
 - Still 50 Category 1 credits
 - 20 of the Category 1 credits must be designated as self-assessment and/or performance improvement
 - **New requirements don't go into effect until you transition to the new 10-year cycle**

When Do I Start the New Process?

- After you pass PANCE or PANRE, you will begin the 10-year cycle.
- **New SA and PI-CME requirements don't go into effect until you transition to the new 10-year cycle**
- Sign in to your record at **www.nccpa.net** to find out when you transition.

- Dashboard
- My Professional Profile
- CME
- Payments
- Exams
- Specialty CAQs
- Credentialing Info Release
- My Account

- Cycle Summary
- 10 Year Status

SA and PI Requirements: Physician assistants must earn at least 20 Category 1 CME credits during each of their first four (4) cycles through Self Assessment (SA) and/or Performance Improvement (PI) activities. By the end of the fourth cycle, PAs must have earned at least 40 Category 1 CME credits through SA activities and at least 40 Category 1 CME credits through PI activities.

Self Assessment Credits

30.00

40

Required

Due by the end of Cycle 4: 12/31/2022

Performance Improvement Credits

75.00 ✓

40

Required

Due by the end of Cycle 4: 12/31/2022

Cycle 5: Recertifying Exam

Not Taken

Cycles 1 - 5: Credit Totals

Cycle 1 Credits (01/09/2014 - 12/31/2016)

Category 1 Credits	105.00/50
PI/SA Combined Credits	105.00/20
Category 2 Credits	0.00
Total Credits	105.00/100

Cycle 2 Credits (05/01/2016 - 12/31/2018)

Category 1 Credits	0.00/50
PI/SA Combined Credits	0.00/20
Category 2 Credits	0.00
Total Credits	0.00/100

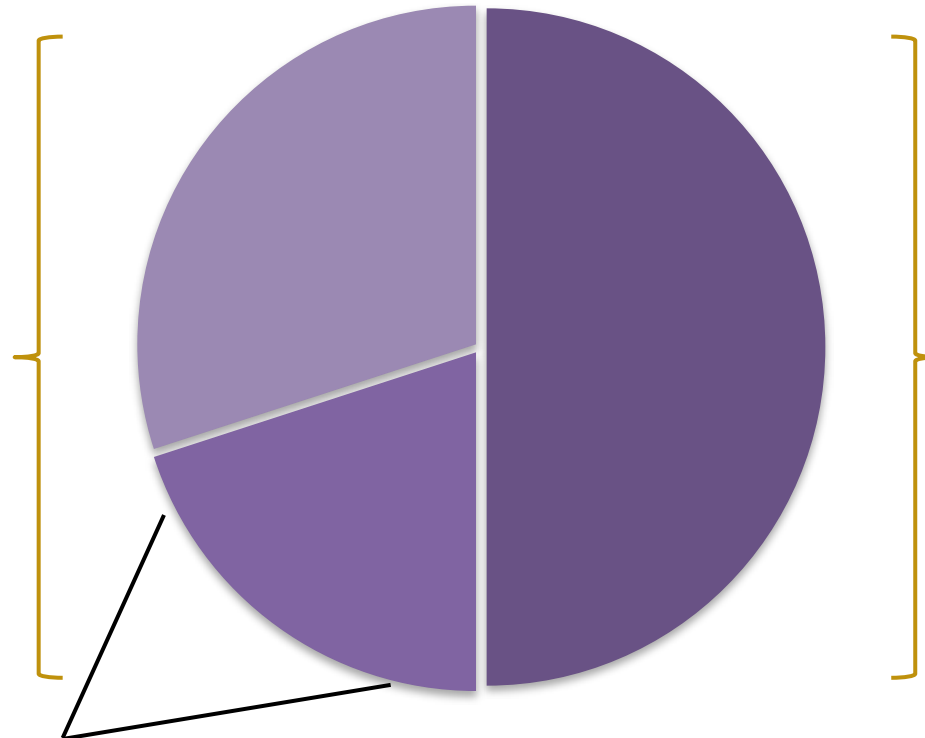
Cycle 3 Credits (05/01/2018 - 12/31/2020)

Category 1 Credits	0.00/50
PI/SA Combined Credits	0.00/20
Category 2 Credits	0.00

Directed CME Defined

100 Credit CME Requirement (every 2 years)

Category 1
(50 credits)



Category 1
or 2
(50 credits)

20 Category 1 CME credits designated
as **self-assessment** and/or
performance improvement

Certification Maintenance Illustrated

1st CME Cycle

During each cycle, earn 100 CME credits including 50 Category 1 credits with 20 earned through self-assessment and/or PI-CME activities.

2nd CME Cycle

3rd CME Cycle

By the end of the 4th CME cycle, you must have 40 Category 1 CME credits through SA activities and 40 Category 1 CME credits through PI activities.

4th CME Cycle

5th CME Cycle

Earn 100 CME credits including 50 Category 1 and pass PANRE

Why Self-Assessment (SA)?

Self-assessment is the process of conducting a systematic review of one's own performance, knowledge base or skill set for the purpose of improving future performance, expanding knowledge, or honing skills.

Things you know



Things you know you don't know

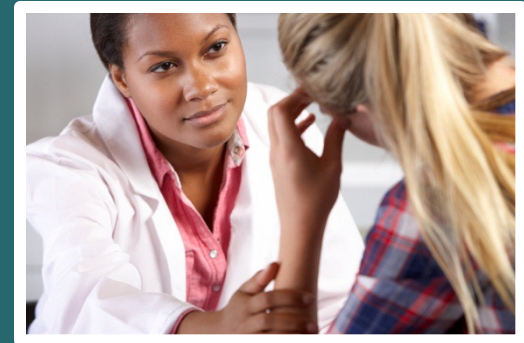
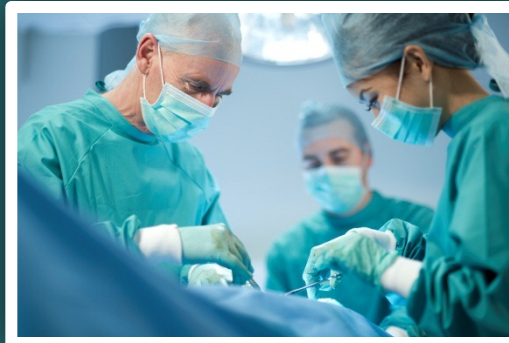


Things you don't know you don't know



Why Self-Assessment (SA)?

- 2012 study concluded that more than 20% of core information guiding clinical practice is changed within one year based on new evidence or guidelines.
- Self-assessment makes CME more meaningful and practical to one's practice
- It requires active engagement in the learning process



Disclosure Information

NCCPA has no financial or other relationship with the following organizations or products.

They are included here as examples only.

- Content covers: Cardiology, Dermatology, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, General Internal Medicine, Hematology and Oncology, Infectious Disease, Nephrology, Neurology, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Rheumatology and Hospital Medicine is covered across all specialty areas
- 1,200 Multiple Choice Questions, hundreds of figures and charts
- Digital format - iPad, smart phone compatible
- Total of 174 CME credits available, minimum of 20 AAPA Category 1 Credits™ Self Assessment CME credits per specialty section
- Cost: Special AAPA pricing of \$369

RoshReview

- 400 clinical vignette based questions
- Topics derived from the NCCPA Content Blueprint
- Comprehensive explanation of the correct and incorrect answer choices
- A follow up One Step Further question to reinforce the content just tested
- Performance analysis to track strengths and weaknesses
- Cumulative 50% correct to receive credit
- Approved for 20 AAPA Category 1 Self-Assessment CME credits
- Cost: \$79

AAPA's Learning Central



The screenshot shows the AAPA Learning Central website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the AAPA logo and the text 'American Academy of PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS'. The user is logged in as 'Jane Doe' and can click 'Logout'. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'AAPA Home', 'CME Home', 'My Curriculum', 'My Transcript', 'CME Catalog', 'Resource Library', and 'About this Site'. The 'CME Home' tab is selected. A red box highlights the 'Certification Maintenance' section, which contains two buttons: 'PI-CME' and 'Self-Assessment CME'. Below this, there is a 'CME Calendar' section with several course listings, including 'CME Resources 5-day PANCE/PANRE Review Course' and 'Advanced Wilderness Life Support'. There is also a 'Tools' section with 'Coming Soon!' and buttons for 'Communities of Practice' and 'State Requirements'. The main content area is divided into several columns. The first column has 'JAAPA Post-Tests' with a 'Current Issue - July 2013' section featuring an article on 'Management of diabetes in patients with end-stage kidney disease'. The second column has a 'Featured' section with 'More than 400 CME Activities all under one roof!' and 'DIABETES LEADERSHIP EDGE'. The third column has 'PQRS' section with 'PQRSwizard' and 'Act Now to Avoid the 2013 Penalty'. At the bottom, there are three boxes: '17.5 hours of AAPA Category 1 CME Credit Available', 'Core Content: Review of Family Medicine', and 'Prescriber's Letter'.

Self-Assessment Opportunities Through AAPA

Self-Assessment CME



In 2014, PAs will begin to transition to a new certification maintenance process. As part of this new process, PAs must earn 20 credits of Category 1 PI-CME and/or Self-assessment CME every two years. Acceptable activities are certified for AAPA Category 1 PI-CME credit or AAPA Category 1 Self-assessment CME credit.

The following activities are currently certified for AAPA Category 1 Self-Assessment CME credit:

Provider: American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Amplifire for UNIPAC 1: The Hospice and Palliative Care Approach to Serious Illness

Amplifire for UNIPAC 2: Alleviating Psychological and Spiritual Pain

Amplifire for UNIPAC 3: Assessment and Treatment of Pain

Amplifire for UNIPAC 4: Management of Selected Non-pain Symptoms of Life-Limiting Illness

Amplifire for UNIPAC 5: Communication and Teamwork

Amplifire for UNIPAC 6: Ethical and Legal Issues

Amplifire for UNIPAC 7: Caring for Patients with HIV/AIDS

Amplifire for UNIPAC 8: Caring for Pediatric Patients

Amplifire for UNIPAC 9: Caring for Patients with Chronic Illnesses: Dementia, COPD, and CHF

Provider: American Academy of Pediatrics

Pediatrics Review and Education Program (PREP) Self-Assessment

PREP Adolescent Medicine

PREP DBPeds

Currently:

260+ Self-Assessment CME examples in many different specialty areas (with more under review)

Prices range from FREE to \$400 depending on the sponsor and the number of credits offered. Ongoing efforts to ensure lowest cost possible

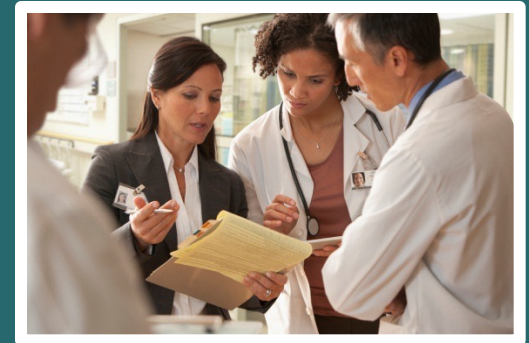
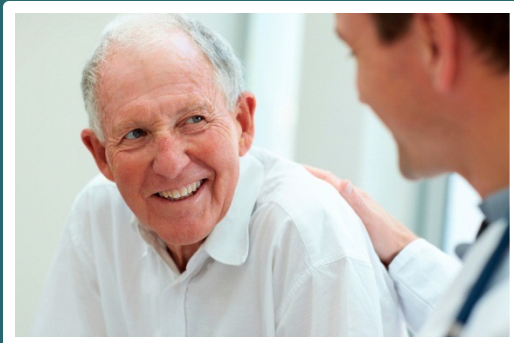
Self-Assessment Opportunities Through AAPA

Currently approved Self-Assessment CME activities include topics in:

- General medicine
- Orthopaedic surgery
- Neurology
- Hospice and palliative medicine
- Pediatrics
- Cardiology
- Emergency medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Nephrology
- Urology
- Neurosurgery
- Rheumatology
- OB/GYN
- Dermatology
- Hospital medicine
- Endocrinology
- Critical care medicine
- Psychiatry
- Hematology
- Allergy and immunology
- Surgical oncology
- Pediatric surgery
- Hand surgery

Why Performance Improvement (PI) CME?

PI-CME is a process of active learning and the application of learning to **improve your practice** and ultimately to **enhance patient care**



What is Performance Improvement (PI) CME?

- A traditional, approved PI-CME activity includes three stages for which you can earn CME credit:
 - Stage A - Identify evidence-based measure and assess practice (5 PI-CME credits)
 - Stage B - Intervention(s) (5 PI-CME credits)
 - Stage C - Re-measure; document improvement (5 PI-CME credits)
- Completing all 3 stages (bonus of 5 PI-CME credits)

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They are included here as examples only.



- METRIC is offered by the American Academy of Family Physicians
- Can be completed individually or as group
- Modules available in
 - Diabetes
 - Asthma
 - Hypertension
 - Geriatrics
- Each module = 20 PI-CME credits
- Cost: \$125 for PA non-members



- EQIPP is offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Can be completed individually or as group
- Modules available in
 - Asthma
 - Immunizations
 - Diabetes care
 - Newborn screening
 - Oral health
 - GERD
 - Growth surveillance
 - Tobacco use and exposure
- Each module = 20 PI-CME credits
- Cost: free for AAP members; \$199 for PA non-members

Surgical Timeout



- The first module is applicable to virtually all surgical specialties
- Other PI and SA modules to follow in 2015
- Module will be approved for 20 PI-CME credits
- Cost: \$199 for AAPA members; \$299 for non-members

PI-CME for PA Educators

- PAEA Workgroup developed performance improvement (PI) modules for PA educators and administrators on principles and competencies of interprofessional collaborative practice (IPC): <http://ipe.paeaonline.org/>
- Another PI module developed by PAEA on how to integrate oral health competencies into your curriculum: <http://oral-health.paeaonline.org/>
- Patient safety certificate course
 - Available through agreement with Johns Hopkins University
- Quality improvement certificate course
 - Coming soon

AAPA's Learning Central



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PI-CME Opportunities Through AAPA

Performance Improvement (PI) CME Activities



This year, PAs will begin to transition to a new certification maintenance process. As part of this new process, PAs must earn 20 Category 1 credits of PI-CME and/or self-assessment CME every two years.

Acceptable activities are certified for AAPA Category 1 PI-CME credit or AAPA Category 1 Self-assessment CME credit.

Each PI-CME activity follows the three-stage PI-CME model: stage A – performance measurement, stage B – intervention/improvement plan, and stage C – re-measurement.

The following activities are currently certified for AAPA Category 1 PI-CME credit:

Provider: Boston University School of Medicine
The Obesity Epidemic: Improving Practice to Provide Proactive Care for Adults

Provider: American Academy of Pediatrics
EQIPP: Asthma - Diagnosing and Managing in Pediatrics
EQIPP: Immunizations - Improve Your Practice Rates
EQIPP: Newborn Screening: Evaluate and Improve Your Practice
EQIPP: Oral Health in Primary Care

Currently:
Over 50 PI-CME examples in many different specialty areas (with more under review)

Prices range from FREE to \$400 depending on the sponsor. Ongoing efforts to ensure lowest cost possible

PI-CME Opportunities Through AAPA

- Currently approved PI-CME activities include topics in:
 - General medicine
 - Neurology
 - Pediatrics
 - Emergency medicine
 - Rheumatology
 - Nephrology
 - Dermatology
 - Psychiatry
 - Allergy and immunology
- Non-practicing PAs
 - Patient safety
 - Interprofessional education competencies (for PA educators and administrators)

More on Performance Improvement (PI) CME

- Can be done in partnership with PAs, physicians, and others in your practice
 - Board-certified physicians also have this requirement
- Where can I find these programs
 - A traditional PI CME activity (like METRIC or EQIPP)
 - An activity or project that has been developed by an employer or institution and approved by AAPA (e.g. Cleveland Clinic, MD Anderson) -- could also be a QI activity that a PA is already doing
 - An activity or project that has been developed by an individual PA or group of PAs and approved by AAPA (coming in early 2016)

Hospital and Health System Quality Improvement

- Will allow PAs to organize QI activities in their own practice settings, or formalize their involvement in existing QI projects and receive PI-CME credits
- Will require official involvement with organization's QI Department
 - Define project goals and quality measures used
 - Define team and resources
 - Define criteria for meaningful participation
 - Submit data package in specified format
- Separate application type on AAPA CME application site
- Once approved, multiple PAs may receive credit

Coming Soon!

Personalized PI-CME

- Will allow an individual PA to customize her/his own PI-CME module by selecting clinical measures from a library
- Process facilitated online
- Projected availability: early 2016

Common Myths About PI-CME

- PI-CME takes more time than traditional CME
 - **Completed over a longer period of time, but not necessary requiring more actual time**
- PI-CME is just another QI or research project
 - **No final “paper” to get credit, there is value in the process itself**
- PI-CME requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
 - **Not intended to generate scientific knowledge or be applied beyond your specific practice**
 - **In 2011, IOM developed “common rule” supporting PI-CME exemption from IRB review**

Another Myth About PI-CME

I can't complete a PI-CME activity because I don't have continuity of care

- Requires practice level data related to a process that impacts patient care
 - e.g. time to provider, handoffs, timeouts, prescribing practices
- Process measures focus on repetitive activities, not individual patient outcomes

Positive Implications for PAs

- Proactively addresses elevated expectations
 - FSMB has recommended that states implement a “maintenance of licensure” process for physicians that requires just this sort of activity
 - Follows ABMS MOC process for physicians
- Elevates the relevance of CME activities
- Focus more on performance as related to patient and community health
- PI-CME aligns with Pay for Reporting (P4R) and Pay for Performance (P4P)
- Fewer exams



**Specialty CAQ
Program**

Key Principles of the Specialty CAQ Program

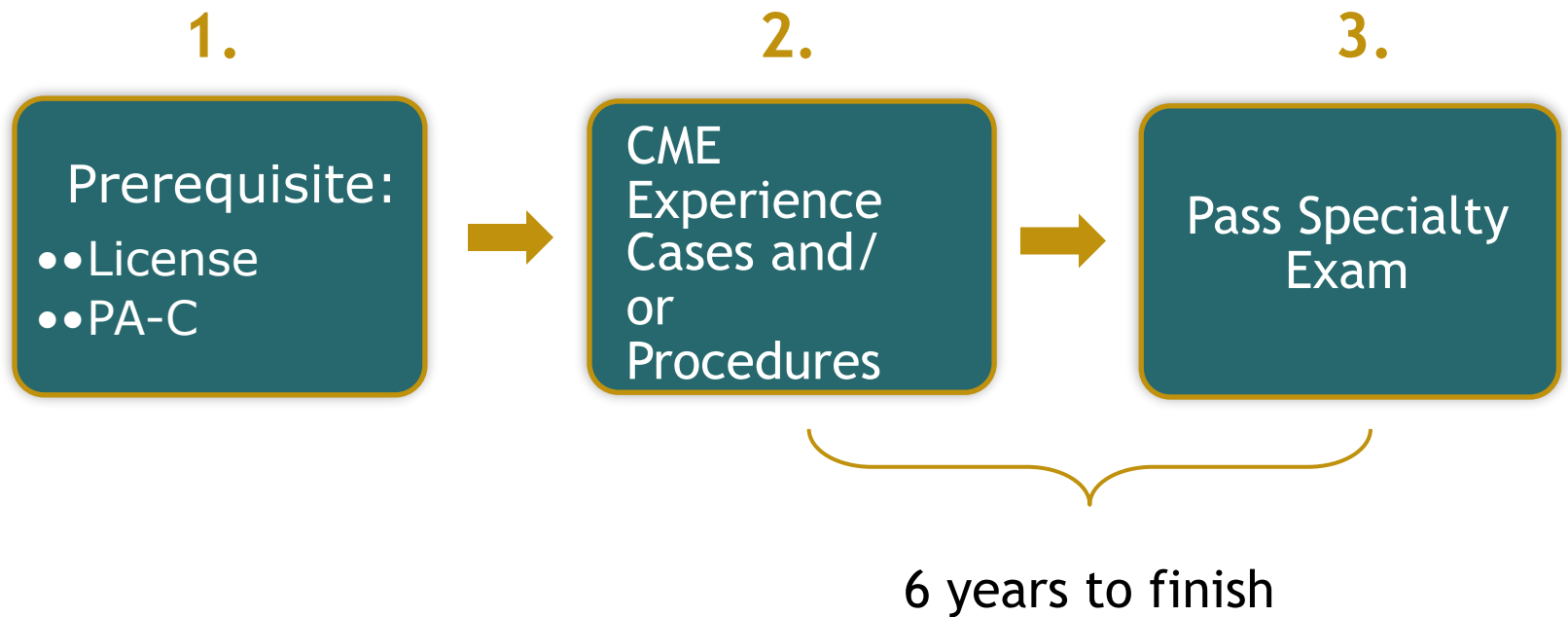
- **PA-C** is still the **primary credential for all PAs**.
- The CAQ program is **voluntary**.
- The program has been developed to be **as inclusive as possible**, recognizing the individual differences among and within specialties.
- The CAQ is an **added** credential that does not replace the PA-C, hence the name.

What Specialties?

- Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Hospital Medicine
- Nephrology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry



Specialty CAQ Process



CAQ Exams

- 120 questions
 - Targeted to certified PAs working in the specialty
 - All questions available for scoring if they meet our performance standards
- 2-hour exam
- Specialty exams are administered nationwide **during two 5-day windows in August and September** at Pearson VUE testing centers.
- Cost \$250 plus a \$100 administrative fee paid when you start the CAQ process

Thank You!

Contact:
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www.nccpa.net

