



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-C (40)

09 JUL 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENS/MEDDACs

SUBJECT: Physician Assistant Certification

1. All Army Physician Assistants (PAs) must be certified by the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPAs) within 2 years of graduation from the Army Physician Assistant Program or its successor, The Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP). This applies to PAs on active duty, the National Guard, and the Reserves.
2. Army PAs who are more than 2 years post graduation from the Army Physician Assistant Program must successfully pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination of the NCCPA by 1 October 1999.
3. Those PAs who do not meet this deadline will have their privileges revoked in accordance with Interim Change 3, June 1995, to Army Regulation (AR) 40-68, Quality Assurance Administration, December 1989. The credentials committee is responsible for notifying the PA in writing of this action. The credentials committee will also notify the PA's commanding officer in writing that this action has taken place and the individual is no longer privileged to function as a physician assistant. This is in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 6025.13, Clinical Quality Management Program (CQMP) in the Military Health Services System (MHSS), July 1995.
4. Individuals who have completed their active duty service obligation (ADSO) for training and had their privileges revoked because of failure to obtain the required NCCPA certification will be processed for elimination or discharge from the Army in accordance with AR 600-8-24, paragraph 4-2a(9), Officer Transfers and Discharges, July 1995, or AR 135-175, Separation of Officers, February 1987 (or AR 135-200, Active Duty for Missions, Projects, and Training for Reserve Component Soldiers, June 1996) for loss of professional status.
5. Physician Assistants who have not completed their ADSO for training and had their privileges revoked because of failure to obtain the required NCCPA certification may be processed for involuntary branch transfer in accordance with AR 614-100, paragraph 4.3, Officer Assignment Policies, Details, and Transfers, September 1990.