



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND  
2050 WORTH ROAD, SUITE 10  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6010

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-C

20 JUN 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENs/MEDDACs

SUBJECT: Physician Assistant Certification

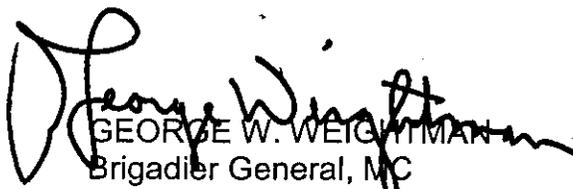
1. In accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 40-68, paragraph 9-1, all Army Physician Assistants (PAs) must be certified by the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) for the duration of their military service. This applies to PAs in all components – Active, National Guard, and Reserve.
2. Army PAs who graduate from the Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program (IPAP) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, are required to take the NCCPA examination immediately following completion of Phase II training. The IPAP graduates have a maximum of two attempts to pass the NCCPA examination.
3. The PAs who are unsuccessful in passing the examination on the first attempt must take the examination at the next available opportunity for which it is offered. Failure to take the NCCPA examination when it is offered, except when officially exempted in writing, will result in an immediate branch transfer.
4. Individuals unable to take the NCCPA examination due to a valid reason, such as, long-term deployments, national emergencies, or serious personal health conditions, must request a deferment for a specific testing period in writing from the Chief, Army Medical Specialist Corps prior to the scheduled exam dates.
5. The PAs who are unsuccessful in passing the NCCPA examination after their second attempt will have their privileges revoked in accordance with AR 40-68, Quality Assurance Administration, IOC 3, 30 June 1995.
6. The PAs who have not completed their active duty service obligation for training (ADSO) and failed the NCCPA examination twice will be processed for involuntary branch transfer in accordance with AR 614-100, paragraph 4.3, Officer Assignment Policies, Details, and Transfers, September 1990.
7. This directive will take effect immediately. Any Army PA, active duty, National Guard or Army Reservist, who has failed the NCCPA examination, regardless of the number of previous attempts, will be given one additional opportunity to take this certification exam and pass at the next available testing opportunity. If again unsuccessful, the officer will be processed for involuntary branch transfer.

MCHO-CL-C

SUBJECT: Physician Assistant Certification

8. Direct questions regarding this issue to LTC Louis H. Smith, Chief, Physician Assistant Section, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Health Policy and Services, DSN 471-6525 or Commercial (210) 221-6525.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
GEORGE W. WEIGHTMAN  
Brigadier General, MC  
Assistant Surgeon General for  
Force Projection



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND  
2050 WORTH ROAD, SUITE 10  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6010

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-C (40)

15 August 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENs/MEDDACs

SUBJECT: Non-Active Duty Physician Assistant Certification

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 40-48, Nonphysician Health Care Providers, paragraph 3-1a, 1 September 1995.
- b. Interim change IO3, Army Regulation 40-68, 30 June 1995, paragraph 9-1(1)(d).
- c. Department of Defense Directive 6025.13, Clinical Quality Management Program (CQMP) in the Military Health Services System (MHSS), July 1995.
- d. Memorandum, HQ, U.S. Army Medical Command, MCHO-CL-C, 18 December 1995, subject: National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) Requirements, Enclosure 1.
- e. Memorandum, HQ, U.S. Army Medical Command, MCHO-CL-C, 9 July 1999, subject: Physician Assistant Certification, Enclosure 2.

2. In accordance with (IAW) reference 1b, all Civil Service, civilian, and contract Physician Assistants working in U.S. Army Health Care Facilities must be certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Inc. (NCCPA) and continuously maintain this certification while employed as a Physician Assistant.

3. Physician Assistants requesting privileges after 1 September 1995 have had to be NCCPA certified as a condition of employment. The NCCPA certification maintenance has been encouraged, but not required.

4. Those Physician Assistants who were either "grandfathered" by reference 1d or failed to maintain their NCCPA certification will be given until 1 January 2002 to obtain their NCCPA certification. Failure to comply will be considered a failure to maintain a condition of employment and result in the termination of employment for Civil Service employees IAW AR 40-68, paragraph 9-1.k.

5. Medical treatment facilities will ensure that all contracts for PA's include the NCCPA certification requirement and a separation clause prior to the January 1, 2002 date.

MCHO-CL-C

SUBJECT: Non-Active Duty Physician Assistant Certification

6. Active duty, National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Physician Assistants must currently meet this requirement IAW reference 1e.
7. Direct questions regarding this issue to LTC Louis H. Smith, Clinical Services Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Health Policy and Services, DSN 471-6525 or Commercial (210) 221-6525.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

2 Encls  
as \*



WILLIAM T. BESTER  
Brigadier General, AN  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations,  
Health Policy and Services



**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.