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NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON CERTIFICATION OF PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS  
3384 PEACHTREE ROAD, N. E. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30326



*Announcement of the*

**1975  
Certifying  
Examination  
for  
Primary Care  
Physician's  
Assistants**

WEDNESDAY, November 19, 1975

This certifying examination has been designed to assess the competence of the assistant to the primary care physician<sup>1</sup> in carrying out a variety of health care functions. These functions have been identified as ones that the primary care physician's assistant<sup>2</sup> should definitely be skilled in performing, and are summarized on the last page of this brochure.

**Examination  
Schedule**

The written portion of this certifying examination is scheduled for November 19, 1975. In addition, each candidate's skill in performing a physical examination may be assessed. This assessment, if included, will take place on November 20 and 21, 1975.

**Morning Session**

A multiple-choice examination designed to assess the candidate's knowledge and skill in applying knowledge related to clinical material presented in printed and pictorial form.

**Afternoon Session**

A programmed testing technique involving simulated clinical cases in adult and pediatric medicine designed to assess the candidate's skill in gathering pertinent information about patients and in making appropriate management decisions.

**Assessment of  
Physical  
Examination  
Skills**

Each candidate may undergo assessment of his/her physical examination skills. This assessment will consist of an evaluation of the candidate's proficiency in performing various components of the physical examination. This assessment will not be used as a screening device for the written portion of the examination. All candidates must take both the written and performance components of the examination. More detailed information regarding this component of the certifying examination will be provided to candidates following the close of registration.

<sup>1</sup> Primary care is defined as: General or Family Practice, General Internal Medicine, and General Pediatrics.

<sup>2</sup> The term "physician's assistant" is used generically and includes Medex, Child Health Associates, and nurse practitioners/clinicians.

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## Eligibility Requirements

### *Graduates of Formal Educational Programs*

An individual is eligible to register for this examination if he/she has graduated or will have graduated by April 1, 1976 from:

1. A program that has been approved by the AMA Council on Medical Education for training assistants to the primary care physician.
2. A program that has received preliminary approval by the AMA Council on Medical Education for training assistants to the primary care physician.
3. A program that has been funded by the Bureau of Health Resources Department (not included in the above categories) that trains assistants to the primary care physician.
4. A program of at least four months' duration within a nationally accredited school of medicine or nursing that trains pediatric or family nurse practitioners.

### *Physician's Assistants Who Have Not Been Trained in Formal Educational Programs*

An individual is eligible to register for this examination if he/she meets *all* of the following requirements:

1. Has a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate.
2. Has had four (4) years of medical clinical experience in primary care as a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner since January 1, 1971. (Summary of Health Care Functions of the physician's assistant is listed on the last page of this announcement.) This experience must have been acquired within the U.S. or in the uniformed services of the U.S.
3. Has met specified criteria concerning the nature of work experience. The details of an applicant's employment history must and will be verified by NCCPA by contacting the employing physician(s) and will then be evaluated in relation to specific criteria for eligibility.

## Registration Procedures

1. The deadline date for receipt of applications for this certifying examination is August 15, 1975. (The official application form accompanies this announcement.) *APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.*
2. A passport-type photograph of the registrant must be affixed to the form provided.
3. Attach a fee of \$100.00 to the application. \$40.00 of this amount is a nonrefundable application fee. The remaining \$60.00 is the examination fee. A check or money order for \$100.00 must accompany this application.
4. Be sure to read the application thoroughly and answer all appropriate items. Failure to complete the application will delay your registration and may prevent getting your choice of test center.
5. Detailed instructions are included with each application.

**Withdrawals,  
Cancellations  
and Refunds**

Any candidate who is registered for the examination, and who fails to appear, forfeits his \$60.00 examination fee unless his absence is due to illness or some other reason acceptable to the Commission. The \$40.00 application fee is nonrefundable.

If a candidate cancels or fails to appear for the examination, he must reapply at the time he wishes to register for a subsequent examination.

Refunds of the \$60.00 examination fee are allowed as follows:

- a. Full refund if candidate is ineligible.
- b. Full elective refund up to 60 days prior to examination.
- c. Elective refund of 50% 60—40 days prior to examination.
- d. Elective refund not to exceed 50% of the \$60.00 examination fee at the discretion of the Commission after 40 days prior to examination.
- e. No elective refund later than two weeks prior to examination.

**Examination  
Results**

Candidates will be advised of examination results during the latter part of February. In the event of failure on the November examination, candidates may apply for reexamination at the time of the next administration. Applications and announcement of the next administration of the certifying examination will be sent to any candidate who fails the examination.

**Choice of  
Examining Center**

A list of provisional examining centers for November, 1975 is given on the next page.

Applications are processed in the order in which they are received. If the center selected is filled when the application is received, the candidate will be assigned to the nearest center with available space. He/she will be advised of such a revised assignment and will be given the opportunity to seek an alternative.

At the close of registration, in the event that too few candidates have requested a given center, it may be necessary to cancel the 1975 examination in that center. Candidates will then be assigned to the nearest center with available space.

**Provisional Center List  
Primary Care Physician's Assistant  
Certifying Examination, November, 1975**

**NORTHEAST**

**Connecticut**

302 New Haven

**Maine**

304 Portland

**Massachusetts**

305 Boston

**New Hampshire**

311 Hanover

**New York**

314 Albany

318 NYC—Brooklyn College

319 NYC—U.S. Public Health Service

320 NYC—Touro College

328 Stony Brook

**Pennsylvania**

331 Hershey

332 Philadelphia

**SOUTHEAST**

**Alabama**

380 Birmingham

**District of Columbia**

384 George Washington Univ.

386 Howard University

**Florida**

388 Gainesville

391 Miami

**Georgia**

394 Atlanta

395 Augusta

**Maryland**

400 Baltimore

**North Carolina**

407 Durham

408 Winston-Salem

**SOUTHEAST (Cont.)**

**South Carolina**

409 Charleston

**West Virginia**

350 Philippi

404 Morgantown

**CENTRAL**

**Arkansas**

430 Little Rock

**Illinois**

433 Chicago

**Indiana**

442 Indianapolis

**Iowa**

444 Iowa City

**Kansas**

479 Wichita

**Kentucky**

446 Lexington

**Michigan**

449 Detroit

481 Kalamazoo

**Minnesota**

482 Rochester

**Missouri**

455 Kansas City

456 St. Louis

**Nebraska**

459 Omaha

**North Dakota**

460 Grand Forks

**Ohio**

468 Dayton

483 Cleveland

**CENTRAL (Cont.)**

**Oklahoma**

470 Oklahoma City

**Wisconsin**

485 Marshfield

**SOUTHWEST & WEST**

**Alaska**

600 Fairbanks

**Arizona**

558 Phoenix

**California**

515 Davis

518 Pacoima

519 L.A.—Charles Drew

523 L.A.—Univ. of S. Calif.

527 Stanford University

**Colorado**

536 Denver

**Hawaii**

591 Honolulu

**Idaho**

562 Boise

**New Mexico**

560 Gallup

**Texas**

541 Dallas

543 Galveston

544 Houston

561 Sheppard AFB

**Utah**

550 Salt Lake City

**Washington**

551 Seattle

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Germany**

924 Frankfurt

## Summary of Health Care Functions

This certifying examination is designed to assess the candidate's knowledge and skill in applying knowledge related to health care functions that have been identified as ones that the primary care physician's assistant should be skilled in performing. The following list is to be viewed as a guide to the content of the examination. It is not intended to be specific or all-inclusive.

1. screen patients to determine need for medical attention
2. review patient records to determine health status
3. take a patient history
4. perform a physical examination
5. perform developmental screening examination on children
6. record pertinent patient data
7. make decisions regarding data gathering and appropriate management and treatment of patients being seen for the initial evaluation of a problem or the follow-up evaluation of a previously diagnosed and stabilized condition
8. prepare patient summaries
9. initiate requests for commonly performed initial laboratory studies
10. collect specimens for and carry out commonly performed blood, urine, and stool analyses, and cultures
11. identify normal and abnormal findings on history, physical examination, and commonly performed laboratory studies
12. initiate appropriate evaluation and emergency management for emergency situations (e.g., cardiac arrest, respiratory distress, injuries, burns, hemorrhage)
13. perform clinical procedures such as:
  - a. venipuncture
  - b. intradermal tests
  - c. electrocardiogram
  - d. care and suturing of minor lacerations
  - e. casting and splinting
  - f. control of external hemorrhage
  - g. application of dressings and bandages
  - h. administration of medications, intravenous fluids, and transfusion of blood or blood components
  - i. removal of superficial foreign bodies
  - j. cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
  - k. audiometry screening
  - l. visual screening
  - m. carry out aseptic and isolation techniques
14. provide counselling and instruction regarding common patient problems.