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To Kildick, etc.
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January 20, 1976

TELEPHONE 834-7070
AREA CODE 504

Mr. Tom Godkins
Physicians Associate Program
University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Tom:

At the meeting of the Committee on Recertification of the National Commission on Certification of Physicians Assistants yesterday, the committee reviewed its previous decision concerning reregistration of the certificate at two year intervals. You will recall that the Commission has accepted the recommendation of the committee that the certificate be reregistered at two year intervals based on both maintenance of appropriate ethical standards and on completion of one hundred hours of acceptable continuing postgraduate medical education over the two year span covered by the certificate. At its meeting in April, the committee was assured by the Academy that it would be able to monitor this aspect of reregistration, and the Commission has agreed to delegate to the Academy both the recording and evaluation of the acceptability of continuing education credit.

The committee has asked me to contact you expressing its concern over the establishment of an accurate mechanism to carry this out by the Academy. We have slightly over one year in which to have this in full operation, and there has been some concern expressed over the availability of sufficient courses or the courses specifically designed for the physicians assistant, over the recognition by physicians assistants of this requirement, both of the NCCPA as well as the membership requirement of AAPA, but largely over the development of an effective mechanism for recording and evaluating those hours for the certificate holders of the commission. It is our understanding that an advisory committee is to be named by the Academy to provide counsel in this matter, but that this advisory committee is not yet functional. It is our belief that any system of recording the hours of continuing education should provide timely enough reporting to those availing themselves of the service so that they might be aware of any deficits in the number of hours in sufficient time to permit them to meet the requirements. This surely must mean that the system must be functioning well in advance of the date for final evaluation.

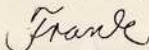
The committee has recommended that a member of NCCPA staff be invited to sit with the advisory committee of AAPA, and to monitor the establishment of the CME program so that NCCPA will be able to make the

necessary decision whether AAPA's program will be functional in time to meet the needs of the commission.

I write this to emphasize that the Commission's needs and timetable may be different and more demanding than that which AAPA is imposing on itself, and to urge that the mechanism be established with effective linkages with members of the Academy and other certificate holders from NCCPA in sufficient time for NCCPA to act without penalizing its certificate holders, most of whom are members of the Academy.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Frank A. Riddick, Jr., M.D.
Medical Director

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