

# Certified PAs

*Improving Health. Saving Lives.  
Making a Difference.*

Certified PAs are educated, certified and licensed like physicians. **They are prepared** through advanced degree programs and through initial certification followed by a certification maintenance program at the highest level in healthcare. PAs who successfully complete these requirements earn the "PA-C" designation after their name. **Certified PAs are proven**, as today there are more than 115,500 Certified PAs practicing medicine across the nation in every specialty and clinical setting.

## **PA's Do That!**

Certified PAs obtain medical histories; examine, diagnose and treat patients; order and interpret diagnostic tests; and recommend and implement treatment plans for the wide range of human illnesses and injuries. They perform minor surgery and assist in major surgery, instruct and counsel patients, order and carry out therapy and prescribe medications. PAs perform these roles within a scope of practice determined by their education and experience and established by their employer in accordance with state regulations.

**Education and Certification:** PAs are educated at the Master's degree level and must pass a rigorous certification exam administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) to become licensed in any state. Certification is designated by the PA-C credential after their name. To remain certified, PA-Cs must earn 100 continuing medical education credits every two years and pass a national assessment every 10 years.

## **Certified PAs:**

**Expand access to care** by providing same-day appointments for acute care visits. Certified PAs often treat "walk-in" patients.

**Serve as primary care providers.** Many have patients who ask for them by name and a full daily appointment schedule of their own.

**Provide care in remote and underserved areas that don't have doctors.** PAs allow patients to be cared for in their own communities, avoiding the hardships and cost of travel to major medical centers.

**Manage complex medical conditions and perform intricate procedures.**

Most importantly, Certified PAs are entrusted by doctors and employers to care for the most important person in their practice - *you*.

**Read more about what PAs do at [www.PAsDoThat.net](http://www.PAsDoThat.net).**

Verify Certification

To check a PA's  
certification status,  
visit [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net).



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