# ABMS Portfolio Program Agreement with the National Commission on Certification of Physicians Assistants (NCCPA)

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the nature of the agreement?**

The ABMS Portfolio Program has entered into an “interprofessional collaborative agreement” with the National Commission on Certification of Physicians Assistants (NCCPA). Under this agreement, physician assistants (PAs) working in Portfolio Program sponsor organizations and participating with physicians on team-based inter-professional improvement activities will be able to receive NCCPA Performance Improvement CME (PI-CME) credit through the ABMS Portfolio Program.

**Are all PAs in my organization eligible to receive NCCPA PI-CME credit through this pathway?**This pathway is open to PAs participating with physicians in Portfolio Program approved improvement activities.

**Are “PA only” improvement efforts eligible to receive NCCPA Certification Maintenance credit through this pathway?**

Not at this time.

**What are the standards for meaningful PA participation in these improvement activities?**The threshold for meaningful PA participation must be equivalent to the standard for physicians participating in the same activity.

**How will PAs receive credit through this pathway?**

Documentation of meaningful participation by PAs in an activity should occur using the same mechanism used by the physicians participating in the same activity. Portfolio Sponsors will attest to PA participation in approved activities to the Portfolio Program. The Portfolio Program will provide an online form for sponsors to use to report PA participation. The Portfolio Program will report PA completion to the NCCPA. NCCPA offers [more details on this process](http://www.nccpa.net/abms-portfolio-program) on its website.

**How will PAs know when their PI-CME credit has been awarded?**

The NCCPA will email PAs when their credits have been logged in their record.

**How many PI-CME Credits will PAs receive for efforts submitted to the NCCPA through the Portfolio Program?**

PAs will be awarded 30 PI-CME credits. NCCPA then doubles the first 20 PI-CME credits earned for each PA per CME logging cycle.

**How will PA participation affect my organization’s sponsor fees?**

An organization’s PA attestations will be included along with physician attestations when calculating an organization’s annual participation fee.

**Are Portfolio Program Sponsor organizations required to participate?**

We encourage organizations including PAs in inter-professional improvement activities to participate. However, participation is not required.

**Do Sponsors have to use the PA forms provided by the NCCPA/Portfolio Program?**

Yes. The NCCPA will award PA credit when the Sponsor has used the ‘Part IV Sponsor Approval Statement’, the ‘PA Attestation’ and the ‘Confirmation Letter’ as part of the PA participation and submission process.

**What information is required in order to submit PA completions?**

Sponsors must include the following in a PA completion submission:

1. Unique NCCPA ID Number (sometimes referred to as the NCCPA Certification Number)
2. Last Name
3. First Name
4. Middle Initial
5. Date of Birth
6. Email Address
7. QI Effort Title
8. Start Date
9. End Date