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SDPA Member Survey on Proposed NCCPA Change to PANRE April 11, 2016

Executive Summary

In response to the NCCPA's recently proposed changes to the PANRE module, the SDPA performed a survey of its membership to gather their opinions. The survey was sent to all PA members of the SDPA including Fellows, Fellow-Diplomates, and Associates. The survey remained open for 12 days and 9% of our PA constituency base responded. The survey was anonymous and results were collected online.

Below is a review of the top findings:

- 97% of respondents were aware of the proposed changes. 3% were not aware of the proposed changes.
- The majority of respondents (62%) have been PAs for 11 years or more. 32% of this majority have been practicing for 16 or more years.
- Of those who responded 56% have taken the PANCE/PANRE at least twice. 8% of respondents have taken the PANCE/PANRE 5 or more times.
- 45% of respondents feel the current PANRE model is good for PAs to remain up to date on current medical knowledge and 46% feel it is not.
- 26% of respondents feel the current NCCPA recertification model is an effective process for testing medical knowledge. 39% of respondents feel it is not effective.
- 45% of respondents feel that take at home exams would not measure their medical knowledge effectively. 30% of respondents feel it would be moderately or very effective.
- The majority of respondents (71%) feel the best interval for a recertification exam cycle would be every 10 years.
- 61% of respondents said they were not at all likely or unlikely to select an option where a take home exam was available but would require more time and have more difficult questions than the current PANRE.
- The majority of respondents (86%) stated that in the event that a take home exam were available, but would require more time and have more difficult questions than the current PANRE, the ideal interval would be every 10 years.
- 47% of respondents agree with multi-level scoring with potential retesting or CME requirements rather than a pass or fail model. 39% do not agree.
- 71% of respondents feel that, compared to the previous CME requirements and testing, the new models along with practice improvement (PI) and self-assessment (SA) CME will be more challenging. 26% felt it would not be more or less challenging.
- 61% of respondents felt a specialty exam or certification would reduce the ability of PAs to move across specialties. 39% felt it would improve the credibility of the PAs within specialties.
- 77% of respondents oppose the proposed change to the PANRE model. 23% agree with the changes.