Presentation Outline

- Overview of PANRE-LA (alternative to traditional PANRE)

- Certificates of Added Qualifications (CAQ)

- NCCPA Resources

Where it all began...

The process for designing an alternative to PANRE has …

- been thoughtful and deliberate

- relied heavily on PA input

- included feedback from other stakeholders

- included environmental scanning for current/emerging trends

- included extensive qualitative and quantitative analysis of data gained through the Pilot administration

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A paradigm shift ....

- Shift in assessment **_of_** learning to assessment **_for_** learning and that is both formative and summative

- Shift in thinking of recertification as a "point in time" assessment to determine if practitioners meet a standard to one that helps practitioners identify and close knowledge gaps so they can meet the standard

- Shift in the tone of the relationship between the certifying organization and certificants

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Longitudinal Assessments

- Shorter assessments spread over a longer period of time

- Recurring process versus "one and done"

- Purpose is to help identify and close knowledge gaps

- Supported by research

- Not a new concept, but relatively new to the certification arena

- Adopted in some form by the 24 ABMS member boards; also under consideration by others such as the NBCRNA

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Key Takeaways From the Pilot (based on 18,000+ PAs) That Helped Inform Models

1 Every subgroup demonstrated knowledge growth over time overall, PAs performed very well with the mean score being two full standard deviations above the passing score.

3 PAs appreciated the flexibility and convenience of the at-home format.

2 PAs valued the immediate feedback to know if they answered a question correctly and the critiques that provided explanations — especially on questions they missed.

4 Having the ability and time to use references make the exam feel more like "real life" and reduces the anxiety of the exam.

Comparison with the Pilot

Similarities to the Pilot

- Same number of items per quarter
- Same number of scored quarters (8)
- Items administered one-by-one on any device
- Can log in/log out at their convenience
- Ability to use references (but not people)
- Answer "survey" questions before you know if they answered the item correctly (questions will be tweaked)
- Immediate feedback on whether item was answered correctly, critiques provided
- Remediation items (targeted questions) after Q1

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Differences from the Pilot

- Have up to 3 years to complete 8 quarters; flexibility to skip quarters
- Same time per item throughout (5 minutes)
- Ability to "save for later" a set number of questions
- Opportunity to improve score/increase learning to pass if you don't skip too many quarters
- Approved for Category 1 Self-assessment CME credit by AAPA

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PANRE-LA Overview

Years 1-6

- Submit application for PANRE-LA
- No assessment activity, but must complete CME requirements (no changes)

Years 7-9

- 25 questions per quarter
- Remediation questions after Q1, if needed
- Score 8 of 12 quarters to determine pass/fail decision
- Potential early exit after 8 quarters based on performance and participation
- Continue to meet CME requirements

Year 10

- No assessment or 3 attempts to take PANRE, if needed
- Continue to meet CME requirements

- Quarter 1 of the PANRE-LA was launched this January 2023 for the PAs due to recertify in 2024-2026.

- Next application cycle will open July 2023 for the PAs due to recertify in 2027.

- The traditional PANRE will still be available as a recertification option and it is the same cost.

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Examples of the PANRE-LA Timeline

Re-Certification Year		Year to Start the Process													
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
2024		X	X	X*	PANRE*					X	X	X	PANRE		
2025		X	X	X	PANRE*						X	X	X	PANRE	
2026		X	X	X	PANRE							X	X	X	PANRE

*Requires an extension

Before We Leave PANRE

- Blueprint has been updated (January 2023)

- Assessment of **core** medical knowledge vs general medical knowledge

- Much more specificity provided about possible content on exam

- Many more details on NCCPA website at: https://www.nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2023-PANRE-PANRELA-By-Content.pdf

- Practice PANRE questions: https://www.nccpa.net/resources/sample-panre-questions/

- PANRE-LA Tutorial: https://www.nccpa.net/maintain-certification/#about-panre-la

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Content Blueprint

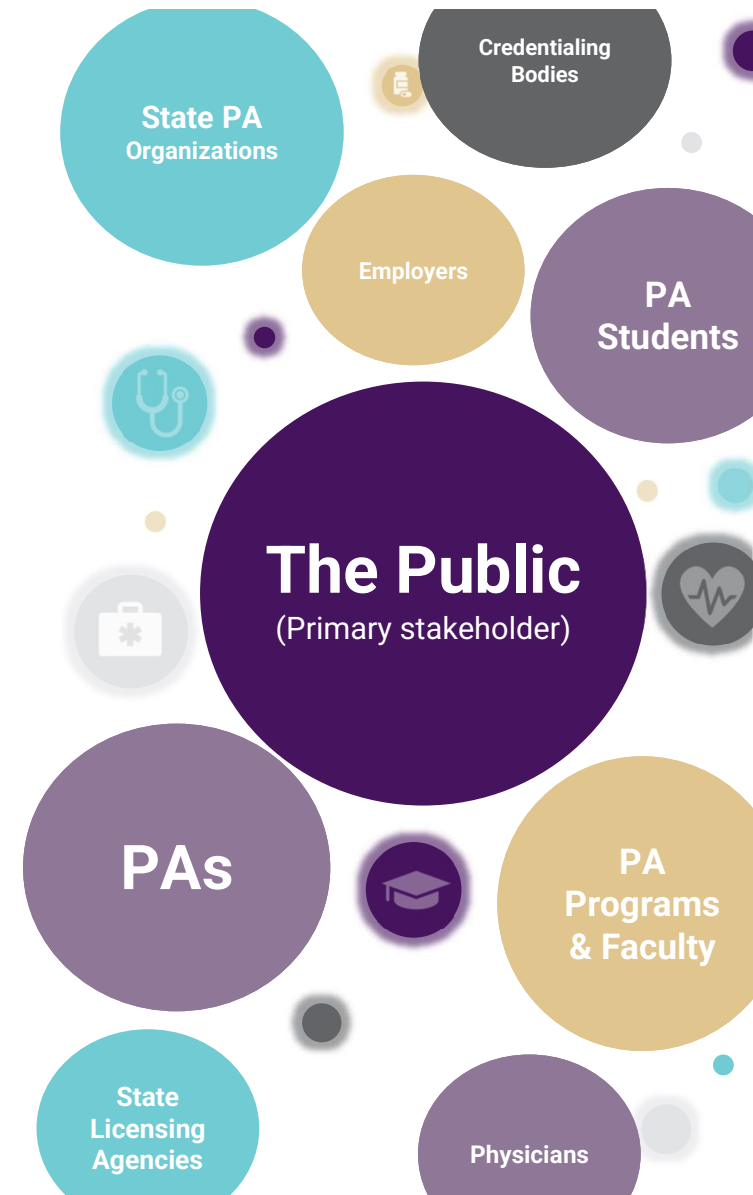|	Performance Expectation			
	History & Physical	Diagnosis	Intervention (Basic)	Intervention (Complex)
Cardiovascular System – 12%				
Abdominal aortic aneurysm	•	•	•	
Acute myocardial infarction: non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI)	•	•	•	
Acute myocardial infarction: ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI)	•	•	•	•
Acute myocarditis	•	•		
Acute pericarditis	•	•		
Angina pectoris (stable and unstable angina)	•	•	•	
Aortic dissection	•	•		
Arterial embolism/thrombosis	•	•	•	
Atrial fibrillation	•	•	•	

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Key Principles Of The CAQ Program

- NCCPA (and many stakeholders) agree that the **PA-C** must maintain its position as the ***primary credential for all PAs***.

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  - A CAQ is not required to maintain NCCPA certification, and we require licensure as a condition of earning a CAQ so that it can not become a requirement for licensure

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- The program has been developed to be ***as inclusive as possible***, recognizing the individual differences among and within specialties.

Which Specialties ?

- Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Hospital Medicine
- Nephrology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry

Coming soon:

- Dermatology
- Palliative Medicine and Hospice Care
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Occupational Medicine

CAQ Components

- Prerequisites
  - Unrestricted license from state(s) and/or unrestricted privileges to practice for a government agency
  - Current PA-C
- Specialty-related CME (not in addition to certification maintenance CME requirement)
- Experience
- Attestation re specific procedures and/or cases
- Specialty CAQ exam (resources available)

CAQ By the Numbers
(2011 –2021)

Total = 2,400

- 1,142 in emergency medicine
- 615 in psychiatry
- 259 in orthopaedic surgery
- 200 in hospital medicine
- 79 in pediatrics
- 68 in CVT surgery
- 37 in nephrology

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NCCPA Guiding Principles

- NCCPA is dedicated to serving the interest of the public

- We remain committed to the flexibility that PAs have to change specialties during their career and to work in multiple specialties

State PA Organizations

Credentialing Bodies

Employers

PA Students

The Public
(Primary stakeholder)

PAs

PA Programs & Faculty

State Licensing Agencies

Physicians

You Can't Spell NCCPA Without PA

- PAs are involved in many important aspects of the NCCPA
- Board of Directors (11 of 18 are PAs)
  - Apply for a PA Director at Large position soon- this elected position starts in January 2024
- Exam development and advisory activities
- PA Ambassador program to increase awareness

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PA Involvement in Exam Development Process

PA Roles

Exam Development Cycle

- Practice Analysis
- Exam Blueprint
- Item Development
- Form Development
- Form Review
- Exam Administration
- Statistical Analysis
- Key Validation
- Standard Setting
- Scoring and Reporting
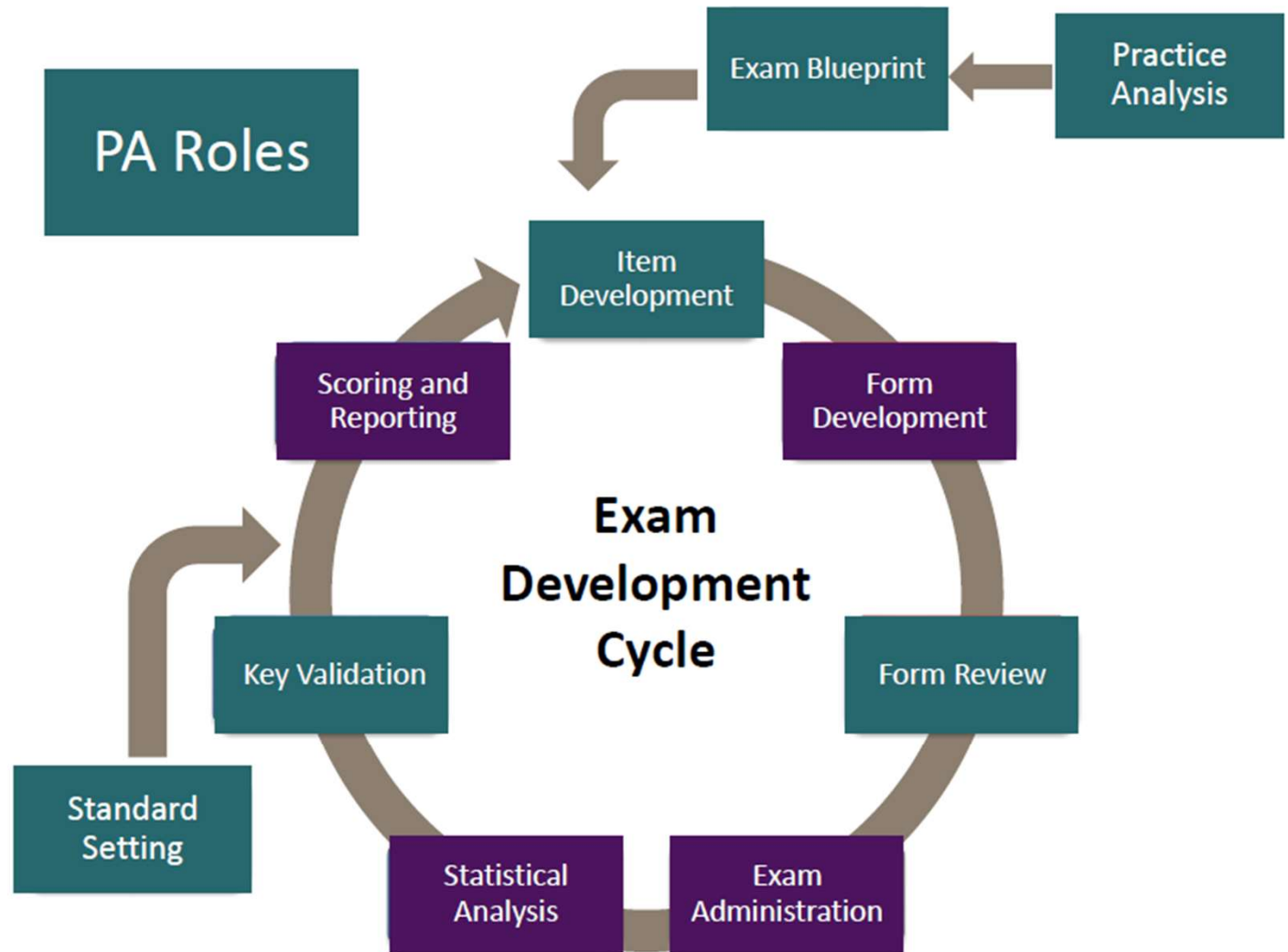
Benefits to volunteering – volunteer@NCCPA.net

Expenses for travel/hotel accommodations covered

Experience that can be included on a CV, and enhanced personal and professional development

Volunteers play an important role — contributing to quality of the exams administered by NCCPA

Honoraria ($$$) issued after attendance at each meeting

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NCCPA Communications to PAs

- Monthly electronic newsletter

- All platforms of social media

- PA Insights with NCCPA podcasts

- Live and virtual presentations like this

- Newly redesigned and updated website

www.PAsDoThat.net   An Online Overview of the PA Profession

Need More Time To Meet a Deadline or Other Requirement?

Requests for exceptions to policy (ETP) which are extensions of certification for additional time to earn/log CME and/or take and pass an exam due to (requires documentation):

- military obligation
- death in the family
- personal or family medical issues
- other significant and severe extenuating circumstances

PA-C Career Center | NCCPA

Powered by Health eCareers

- Search hundreds of jobs for Certified PAs
- Upload your résumé
- Set up alerts for new jobs

Click "Career Center" Link at www.nccpa.net

PA-C Emeritus

- **Recognition for PAs retiring from clinical practice –**

    NOTE: The PA-C Emeritus designation is <u>not</u> the equivalent of PA-C certification. Those designated as PA-C Emeritus are <u>not</u> considered certified by NCCPA and may not hold themselves out as such.

- Eligibility requirements:
    - Retired from clinical practice
    - Unable to practice due to permanent disability
    - Have been NCCPA-certified at least 20 cumulative years during the PA career
    - No reportable actions in NCCPA disciplinary history

- One-time $50 application fee

PA-C Emeritus

A Recognition Program

Benefiting the PA Foundation's

PA Student Scholarship Fund

NCCPA Research
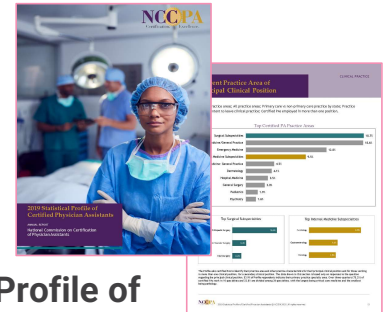
2021 Statistical Profile of Certified PAs

- Geographic Distribution
- Gender, Age, Race and Ethnicity
- Education (Highest Level Reached)
- Top PA Practice Areas (Principal Clinical Position)
- Practice Setting

2021 Statistical Report of Recently Certified PAs

- Assessment of Job Opportunities
- Plans to Seek Additional Education or Training
- Educational Debt
- Practice Environment and Work Life Balance
- Job Search

DEI Initiatives and Media/Public Relations

- Back 2 School Program – increasing awareness of PA profession in elementary, middle and high schools

- REPRESENT! Summit – hosted by NCCPA September 2022 at the National Center of Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, GA.

- Annual PR campaign – Certified Partners

- PA Week outreach – billboards, etc.

- PA Student appreciation outreach and give-aways

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Board Certification and Title Change Updates

- In May 2022, NCCPA's Board of Directors approved the use of the term *Board Certification* when referring to PANCE, PANRE, the PA-C credential, and NCCPA Certification where appropriate.

- This terminology more definitively represents and communicates the rigorous process PAs engage in to demonstrate medical knowledge, clinical skills and competencies, and the generalist credential earned by all NCCPA Certified PAs upon entry to the profession and maintained throughout their careers.

- Additionally, NCCPA has adopted policies that treat the titles "physician assistant," "physician associate," and "PA" as equivalent and synonymous and is updating its policies, published guidance, and publications to reflect that.

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History of the PA Licensure Compact

The PA Compact is a joint initiative started in 2019 to improve licensure portability for PAs.

The initiative is made possible through the partnership with the following organizations:

- Federal of State Medical Boards (FSMB)

- American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)

- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

PA Licensure Compact Purpose

- Facilitates PA licensure portability

- Ensures PAs meet acceptable standards of practice

- Expands the availability of PA services

- **Supports military families**

- Promotes cooperation among PA member states in the areas of licensure and regulation

- Offers a high degree of patient protection across state lines

Individual Requirements to Obtain Compact Privileges

To obtain the compact privilege, a licensee must:

- Have graduated from an accredited PA program
- **Hold current NCCPA certification**
- Have no felony or misdemeanor convictions
- Have never had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked
- Have a unique identifier as determined by the compact commission

Additional Resources
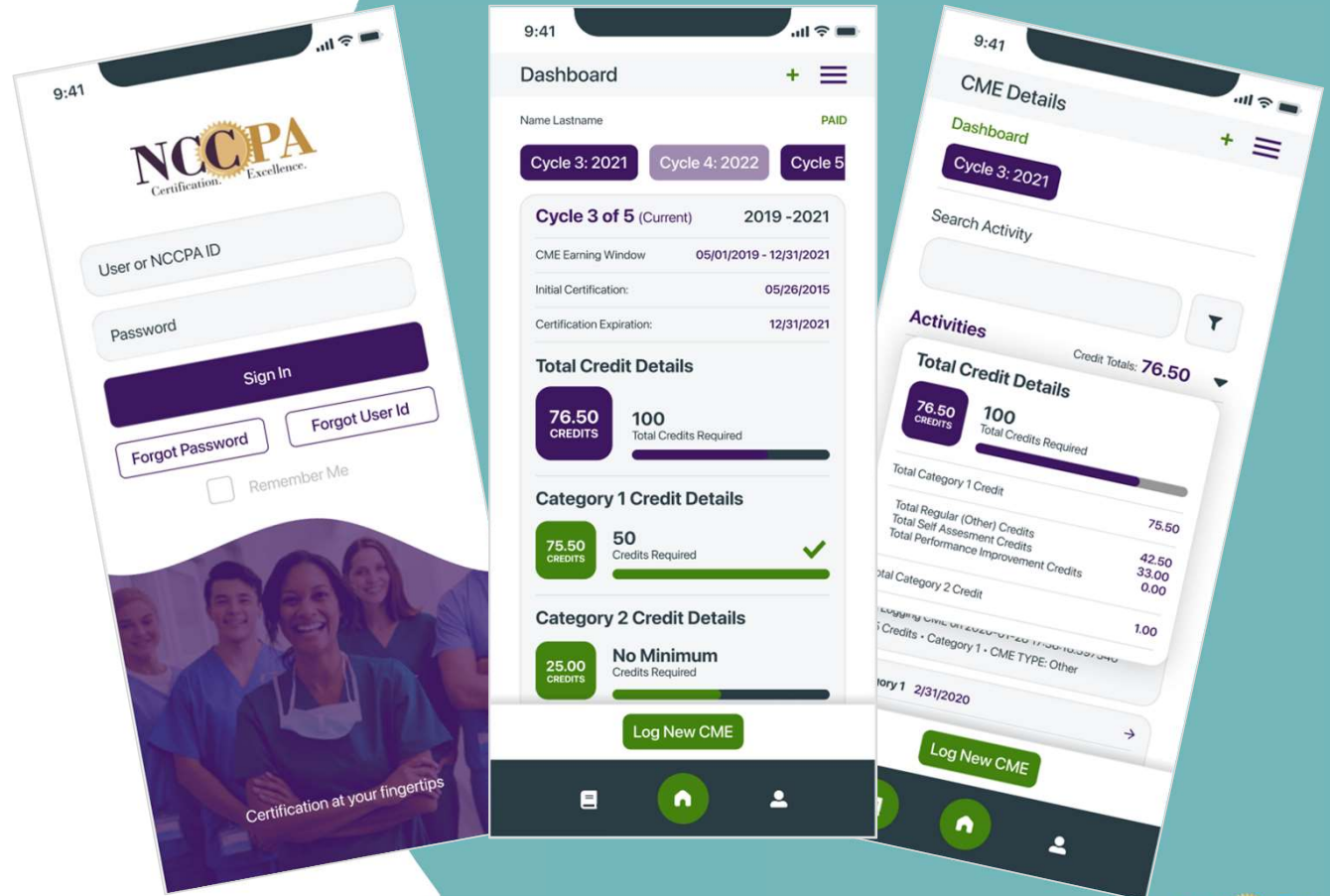

https://www.pacompact.org/

pacompact@csg.org

Compact Toolkit
- Model Legislation
- Section by Section Summary
- Reference Sheet for Legislative Testimony
- FAQ

There's an App For That!

- Keep track of your certification status

- Log CME as you earn it

- Update your professional profile

Alexa PA Skills

To Enable App:
- Say "Alexa, enable physician assistant facts"
- Type a search in the Alexa store for "Physician Assistant (PA) Facts"

To Play Facts once enabled:
- Say "Alexa, open PA facts"

NCC)PA

More About NCCPA

2 Supporting Organizations:

- PA History Society

- nccPA Health Foundation

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Thank you!!

Any questions:

- Phone at **678-417-8100**

- Text at **678-417-8101**

- E-mail at **nccpa@nccpa.net**

Email direct: aliciaq@nccpa.net