

A photograph of three healthcare professionals, two women and one man, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing medical scrubs. The woman on the left is wearing light blue scrubs, the woman in the middle is wearing pink scrubs, and the man on the right is wearing dark blue scrubs. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

# Recognizing Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants for Excellence in Care



***Did you know that nurse practitioners and physician assistants are eligible for NCQA's recognition programs?***

Providing quality care to patients is your first priority and takes an unrelenting commitment to excellence. As the practice of medicine evolves, and more and more is known about effective disease management and treatment options, how can you assure yourself and your patients that the care you're providing is second to none?

NCQA's Recognition Programs have recently been extended to include nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants to be recognized based on their ability to meet the measures and standards. They are eligible for Diabetes Recognition (DRP), Heart/Stroke Recognition (HSRP), Physician Practice Connections® Recognition (PPC), and Physician Practice Connections® - Patient Centered Medical Home™ Recognition (PPC-PCMH) programs. A practice that receives NCQA Recognition may list its NPs and PAs who meet individual standards in the NCQA Recognition Directory.

**For more information, visit [www.ncqa.org/recognition](http://www.ncqa.org/recognition) or contact Customer Support at [customersupport@ncqa.org](mailto:customersupport@ncqa.org) or (888) 275-7585.**

# How to Apply for...

## Diabetes and Heart/Stroke Recognition Programs

To apply to be a NCQA-Recognized clinician in the Diabetes or Heart/Stroke Recognition programs, NPs and PAs order a Data Collection Tool and other program materials, then follow published guidelines for submitting patient data for evaluation. The same policies, procedures and application fees that have applied to physicians and groups applying for Recognition apply to NPs and PAs.

## Physician Practice Connection® - Patient Centered Medical Home™ Program

To qualify for the Physician Practice Connection® - Patient Centered Medical Home™ (PPC-PCMH) program, NPs and PAs should be available for selection as primary care providers. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants must also have unrestricted licenses, which NCQA will verify before listing NPs and PAs in the Recognition Directory.

NCQA invites practices that are already recognized as PCMHs or those have applied for PCMH Recognition to add names of eligible NPs and PAs to their Practice Information Workbooks and re-submit their full primary care practitioner listing to [ppc-pcmh@ncqa.org](mailto:ppc-pcmh@ncqa.org). Nurse practitioners and physician assistants will be added to the Recognition Directory and other distributed listings following license verification.

Practices that have not submitted their PPC-PCMH application and survey should include their NPs and PAs in both their Practice Information Workbook and their fee calculation.

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### About the National Committee for Quality Assurance

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2010, NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information for consumers, purchasers, health care providers and researchers.