

# Agenda Item 21: Family Nurse Practitioners/Physician Assistant: Subcommittee Recommendations

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# FNP/PA Subcommittee Purpose

- Commissioners raised the following issues at January 2019 Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant (FNP/PA) Funding Meeting:
  - FNP and PA programs have differing minimum first-time exam pass rates for accreditation (FNP – 80 percent, PA – 85 percent), but Song-Brown holds them to the same standard (85 percent).
  - Suggested a new criterion based on hours spent in a primary care continuity clinic.
  - Check that FNP/PA scoring methodology is up-to-date and in line with statute.

# FNP/PA Subcommittee Membership

- Two Commissioners participated in the FNP/PA Subcommittee:
  - Roslynn Bayous, DPA, PA-C
  - Susan Foster, MSN, FNP-BC

# Current Methodology for Criterion 2.3

- Current 2.3 scoring methodology:
  - Does the program have an 85% or better first-time pass rate on the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), or the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) national certification exams?

First-Time Pass Rate	Points
0 to 74.99%	0
75 to 84.99%	5
85 to 100%	10

# FNP/PA Scoring Change Considerations

- Is it fair to hold both FNP and PA programs to the same first-time pass rate standard when they have different accreditation standards?
  - FNP minimum first-time pass rate: 80 percent
  - PA minimum first-time pass rate: 85 percent
- Are there any other criteria that the Commission may want to change or update since we're already looking at Criterion 2.3?

# Potential FNP/PA Scoring Changes: Criterion 2.3

## Options:

1. Change the scoring on the current rubric to reflect the lower first-time pass rate requirements for FNP programs.
2. Add a second level to the rubric (e.g., 7 points at 80 percent).
3. Use different rubrics to score FNP and PA programs.
4. Leave scoring as is.
5. Remove Criterion 2.3 from FNP/PA scoring methodology.

# Findings from Criterion 2.3 Scoring Review

- Did not find a significant difference between FNP and PA program scores on 2.3.
  - *This may be due to the small sample size rather than an actual lack of a significant difference.*

	2017-18			2018-19			Total		
Program Type	Total Programs	# Max Score	% Max Score	Total Programs	# Max Score	% Max Score	Total Programs	# Max Score	% Max Score
FNP	11	9	82%	10	6	60%	21	15	<b>71%</b>
PA	6	4	67%	4	4	100%	10	8	<b>80%</b>
FNP/PA	1	0	0%	1	1	100%	2	1	50%

# Subcommittee Recommendations

- Continue using Criterion 2.3 for scoring.
  - *Keep the current minimum first-time exam pass rate standards for now.*
  - *Gather more data on first-time exam pass rates and revisit in a year or two.*
- Postpone adding a criterion based on average number of hours spent providing primary care to a panel of patients.
  - *Consider the difference in clinical hours for PAs and FNPs.*
- Consider adding a payer mix criterion (already in use for PCR programs).
  - *Do programs have this information on hand?*
  - *If not, would it be easy to collect?*

# Questions?

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