



## NCCAOM Diplomate Webinar

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Questions were submitted at the live Webinar.

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[Webinar Recording](#)

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## MEDICARE

**Question:** Can a licensed acupuncturist get credentialed for Medicare or is it only for physician acupuncturists?

**Answer:** Not at this time. Acupuncturists do not have Medicare-provider status and therefore cannot see Medicare beneficiaries without supervision. Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Physician Assistants are the only providers that can currently provide acupuncture to Medicare beneficiaries.

**Question:** If acupuncture becomes covered by Medicare, does that mean Medicaid will also cover acupuncture?

**Answer:** Medicaid coverage will vary by state, just as it does today. Medicare recognition does not automatically guarantee Medicaid coverage for acupuncture, but it could influence state Medicaid coverage policies.

**Question:** Currently, which providers are providing acupuncture under Medicare?

**Answer:** Physicians, NPs, PAs, and Clinical Nurse Specialists are the only providers that can currently provide acupuncture services to Medicare beneficiaries.

**Question:** Can licensed acupuncturists provide acupuncture treatments to Medicare patients?

**Answer:** At this time, acupuncturists are not authorized to provide acupuncture services to Medicare beneficiaries for chronic lower back pain and be reimbursed for these services, unless they are supervised by an authorized provider. In such cases, the supervising provider would bill Medicare on behalf of the acupuncturist. This is specific to chronic lower back pain. Medicare beneficiaries can receive treatment from an acupuncturist for chronic lower back pain if they pay for the service out of pocket.

**Question:** Does H.R. 3133 differentiate between fully trained acupuncturists and MD, DO, ND, PT, DC etc.?

**Answer:** H.R. 3133 would specifically recognize acupuncturists as Medicare providers, which would enable them to provide services to Medicare beneficiaries for chronic lower back pain—the only acupuncture service that Medicare currently covers. It does not authorize any other provider group, nor does it prevent providers that Medicare currently authorizes to provide acupuncture from continuing to do so: MDs/DOs, NPs, PAs, CNS.

**Question:** Will H.R. 3133 differentiate between acupuncture and dry needling?

**Answer:** H.R. 3133 would specifically recognize acupuncturists as Medicare providers, which would enable them to provide services to Medicare beneficiaries for chronic lower back pain—the only acupuncture service that Medicare currently covers. It does not address dry needling, which is not a covered service under Medicare at this time.

**Question:** Please explain the “Opt-out” provision.

**Answer:** Medicare allows all recognized provider groups the option to opt out of the program. This is done through paperwork that the ASA/NCCAOM will provide education and guidance to the profession to ensure acupuncturists have all the information they need to make the best decision for their practices.

**Question:** Can we get a copy of these slides?

**Answer:** The webinar Power Point Slides are posted to the NCCAOM Website along with the webinar recording.

**Question:** When is the HR 3133 bill expected to pass?

**Answer:** This will depend on the amount of bipartisan support the bill receives and whether there are legislative opportunities of a particular Congress. Medicare-recognition bills typically take several years.

**Question:** Would our other insurer that pays well use Medicare low payment in order to make it untenable to practice without another form of licensure (DC, MD, PT etc.) to bundle?

**Answer:** Reimbursement and recognition are distinct from each other -- Medicare recognition will not dictate third-party reimbursement rates.

**Question:** I’m not an acupuncturist. I am an Oriental Medicine provider. I see acupuncturists going quickly to the level of Respiratory Therapist as we get involved more and more in Medicare.

**Answer:** More context is needed to address this question, but Medicare recognition would enable acupuncturists seeking to participate in Medicare the ability to do so. It would not require acupuncturists to participate.

Medicare recognition also does not determine reimbursement rates—this is done through the American Medical Association’s RUC/CPT process. Reach out to the ASA if you are not satisfied with the state of coding reimbursement rates for your services.

**Question:** What is your sense of how Representatives weigh different forms of outreach to them; are phone and e-mail less valued than text and tweets?

**Answer:** Emails and phone calls are preferred over texts and tweets. Most offices must document correspondence via phones, emails and letters.

**Question:** If a Medicare patient with secondary insurance asks for a Superbill, are we able to provide them with one?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, Medicare does not require superbills at this time.

**Question:** Once Acupuncturists are recognized as providers by Medicare, does that mean Medicaid will also recognize us as providers?

**Answer:** Medicare recognition is specific to the Medicare program. In many states, acupuncturists can treat Medicaid patients. They are two different systems that function differently in terms of service coverage and recognition.

**Question:** Do Medicare advantage plans reimburse?

**Answer:** Many MA plans reimburse acupuncturists for their services. This is plan-specific and will likely vary by region.

**Question:** Can a certified wound care nurse count as nurse specialist provide acupuncture?

**Answer:** You would need to have the proper credentialing and licensing of a clinical nurse specialist to be eligible to provide acupuncture to Medicare beneficiaries.

**Question:** Please explain how this bill passing advances our profession into the future?

**Answer:** Medicare recognition would grant the profession access to over 60-million Americans, many of whom suffer from chronic pain. Recognition also increases job opportunities at clinics and hospitals, which would need to bill Medicare to enable a revenue stream.

As Medicare covers more acupuncture services, the lack of recognition for the acupuncture profession creates a void that other provider groups will step in to fill and push out acupuncturists. This will take place at the state level, as well as the federal level.

Recognition would also make students eligible for federal loan-forgiveness programs, which will encourage more individuals to enter the profession.



**Question:** What are the proposed fee schedules for Medicare?

**Answer:** The 2024 Physician Fee Schedule lists the current fee schedule for 2024. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/physicianfeesched/pfs-federal-regulation-notice/cms-1784-f>

**Question:** What does the board have planned in an effort to raise commercial insurance reimbursement?

**Answer:** This is an ASA-specific question, as they have representation on the American Medical Association's Health Care Professionals Advisory Committee, which plays a part in determining reimbursement rates.

**Question:** Can we engage the VA to help us make the case for getting into Medicare?

**Answer:** Indirectly. We are already using VA data and the VA coverage policies as examples of acupuncture recognition and utilization on Capitol Hill. The VA though cannot pursue this effort on our behalf.

## NCCAOM Certification

**Question:** How are you confirming our live attendance? Is there anything we need to do with regard to the 2 CEUs?

**Answer:** NCCAOM's webinars and Town halls are very highly attended events. There is no way to confirm or verify anyone's attendance once the webinar is in session. Attendance is being tracked by the Zoom Webinar system based on the registration data. The attendance report is generated after the webinar has ended based on each attendee's unique registration link used to enter the webinar. Therefore, all attendees must join the webinar via their own registration link to receive credit.

**Question:** Do we need our cameras on to get credit?

**Answer:** Attendees' cameras are turned off by the admin for Zoom webinars. All attendees must enter their First Name and Last Name during the Webinar registration process. Your name entered during the registration process is used to issue you a unique registration link. Each attendee must join the webinar via their own unique registration link to receive the PDA points earned for participating in the full webinar live session.

**Question:** I entered the webinar from a link via email. Do I also need to log into Zoom?

**Answer:** If you entered the webinar via your unique link within the email, you do not have to login into Zoom.

**Question:** Will you offer credit for CA as well as NCCAOM?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, California Acupuncture Board does not accept NCCAOM PDA Points.

**Question:** Can we use today's 2 credits as ethics 2 credit hours for recertification?

**Answer:** Today's webinar falls under the AOM-BIO category.

**Question:** The audio is very inconsistent. Voice fades in and out, what is the reason?

**Answer:** Zoom event does not have any issues. The audio quality problem is likely on the user's end. The recommended solution of logging out and back in is a common troubleshooting step that may help resolve technical issues.

**Question:** How can we prove to you we attended this meeting?

**Answer:** All attendees must enter their First Name and Last Name during the Webinar registration process. Your Name entered during the registration process is used to issue you a unique registration link. Each attendee must join the webinar via their own unique registration link to receive the PDA points earned for participating in the full webinar live session.

**Question:** Where can we read about the Call for Subject Matter Experts?

**Answer:** The Call for Subject Matter Experts to serve on the NCCAOM Examination Content Development Committees was posted on the NCCAOM website at: <https://www.nccaom.org/certification/diplomate-benefits/volunteering-for-the-nccaom/>

**Question:** How many Diplomates of Asian Bodywork Therapy are left?

**Answer:** The NCCAOM still has 450 Diplomates of Asian Bodywork Therapy.

**Question:** How many respondents participated in the Diplomate Satisfaction Survey?

What is the response ratio compared to the total number of Certified Diplomates?

**Answer:** The Diplomate Satisfaction Survey was sent to all Active Diplomates who have completed at least one recertification process, which totaled to 16,820 Diplomates that received the Survey. 1,851 Diplomates responded to the Survey, which is 11% response rate.

**Question:** Can you please provide the CPR link?

**Answer:** All Diplomates have a choice between an online OR face-to-face CPR Course. No changes have been made to the CPR requirement. Instructions on how to report the CPR course for recertification can be found here:

[https://www.nccaom.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Reporting\\_CPR\\_Coursework\\_Feb.\\_20.pdf](https://www.nccaom.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Reporting_CPR_Coursework_Feb._20.pdf)

**Question:** How can I get the 4 points for CPR now?

**Answer:** Diplomates will have to report CPR course to their NCCAOM recertification Transcript manually to receive 4 PDA points. Instructions on how to report the CPR course for recertification can be found here:

[https://www.nccaom.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Reporting\\_CPR\\_Coursework\\_Feb.\\_20.pdf](https://www.nccaom.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Reporting_CPR_Coursework_Feb._20.pdf)

**Question:** If a class is taken in 2022, expires in 2023, and recertification is 2024, does the class count toward recertification?

**Answer:** The course will count towards recertification as long as the course was active at the time of course completion (i.e. completing the course in 2022 but the course expires in 2023) as well as having the course completion date to be included within your recertification cycle (i.e. completing the course in 2022 but your recertification cycle ends in 2024).

**Question:** "Approved courses" does that mean NCCAOM approved, or can they be approved by others Like Washington DOL/ DOH or Chiro Association, Heart or Diabetes associations?

**Answer:** Diplomates can use the NCCAOM approved courses as well as courses approved by a healthcare professional association such as the Washington DOL/ DOH or Chiro Association, Heart or Diabetes associations, etc. Coursework approved by a healthcare professional association is considered by NCCAOM to be a non-PDA approved course (meaning that it is not directly approved by the NCCAOM). Any non-PDA approved course accepted by the NCCAOM must be reported manually. Details on the manual reporting may be found on our [website here](#).

**Question:** Can we use the doctorate classes from PCOM (DAC program) to cover all required hours?

**Answer:** A Doctorate program from an ACAHM approved school can be used for NCCAOM recertification. However, Diplomates still must complete a minimum of 2 hours in Safety, a minimum 2 hours in Ethics and a CPR course.

**Question:** Where do we report courses that we take with Law firms?

**Answer:** Non-PDA approved coursework will only be accepted if it has been reviewed and approved by a third-party organization or State acupuncture regulatory board. See pages 20-21 (*Non-PDA Approved Coursework Accepted by NCCAOM*) in the [NCCAOM Recertification Handbook](#). Depending on the subject, the courses can be manually reported as Core competencies if medically related in the field of ethics, safety or practice management. A course must be related to AHM and enhance the Diplomates practice to be accepted in the Professional Enhancement Coursework (PE-CW) category.

**Question:** When looking for PDA courses, is it possible to search by provider name? or only their provider number?

**Answer:** Yes, there is a “PDA Provider #” field displayed on each tab of the PDA Search Engine. You may use this to look up courses (by course type via the tabs) that are approved within that Provider’s account. There’s also a PDA Provider Directory (the last tab) where you can look up specific Providers with their Provider Name or Provider # and you will be able to see a list of all the courses that are approved within their account.

**Question:** How does one estimate PDA points for Self-Directed learning?

**Answer:** Self-Directed Learning: A maximum of four (4) PDA points may be earned for completing a written report on an article from a research journal or book review reflecting how the material influences the Diplomate’s knowledge and practice. One (1) point is awarded per clinical research article or book review. The required documentation includes a written narrative of the book/article submitted on the [NCCAOM® Self-Directed Learning Template](#) (Adobe Form).

**Question:** Could Diplomate of Oriental Medicine apply for a separate Acupuncture certificate and Herb certificate?

**Answer:** Diplomates of Oriental Medicine who initially held Acupuncture or/and Chinese Herbology certification and later converted to Oriental Medicine certification, may recertify in previously held Certification(s) at a reduced price and receive a separate wall certificate for each certification. Diplomates who initially achieved the Oriental Medicine Certification are not eligible for any additional/separate wall certificates.

**Question:** Do you recognize coursework in other advanced healthcare degree programs (MD/DO, PA, NP) as PDA/CEU?

**Answer:** Coursework completed by a Diplomate as a part of other healthcare degree programs can be used for Recertification in BIO/Safety/Ethics categories and reported to the Diplomate's Recertification Transcript manually.

**Question:** My college has required courses in HIPPA, Title IX, etc. Do these qualify as ethics and safety?

**Answer:** Yes, if college coursework was completed after the Diplomate's original Certification Date, the coursework may be applied towards recertification and reported to the Diplomate's Recertification Transcript manually. Depending on the subject, the courses can be manually reported as Core if medically related in the field of ethics, safety or practice management. A course must be related to AHM and enhance the Diplomates practice to be accepted in the Professional Enhancement Coursework (PE-CW) category.

**Question:** Can Diplomate recertify before certification expiration date?

**Answer:** Yes. The application for recertification becomes available 365 days prior to the certification expiration date. A Diplomate may submit all PDA/CEUs and recertification application within 1 year before his/her certification expiration date. However, remember that additional coursework completed within that year after you have submitted your recertification cannot be transferred/applied to your next recertification cycle.

**Question:** If some CEUs were completed before the accrual period (before certification date), can they count toward the CEUs needed?

**Answer:** No. All coursework for recertification must be completed within the 4-year Recertification Cycle. Any courses completed outside of Diplomate's accrual period are not acceptable for recertification.

**Question:** How does one estimate PDA points for Self-Directed learning?

**Answer:** Self-Directed Learning: A maximum of four (4) PDA points may be earned for completing a written report on an article from a research journal or book review reflecting how the material influences the Diplomate's knowledge and practice. One (1) point is awarded per clinical research article or book review. The required documentation includes a written narrative of the book/article submitted on the [NCCAOM® Self-Directed Learning Template](#) (Adobe Form).



**Question:** How to report a DAOM degree for PDA Points?

**Answer:** Instructions on how to report a DAOM degree are [available here](#).

**Question:** All of my NCCAOM courses are not reported to my transcript. Are they sometimes not entered by provider?

**Answer:** In order for a PDA approved course to be reported to the Diplomate’s Recertification Transcript, a Diplomate must:

1. Hold an active NCCAOM certification and have an open recertification cycle.
2. The Diplomate’s First name, Last Name and NCCAOM ID# entered during the course registration process must match exactly to the First name, Last Name and NCCAOM ID# in the NCCAOM’s database (the Diplomate’s online account).

When either of the two conditions above are not satisfied, course is not reported.

**Question:** Who are the "strategic partners" who give us discounts?

**Answer:** Chi Online is the vendor who offers and supports [free websites for Diplomates](#) and Framing Success is the vendor who offers [discounted custom frames](#) for NCCAOM wall certificates.

**Question:** How can we add a doctorate to our NCCAOM education?

**Answer:** To add a non-mandatory education to your NCCAOM online account, please contact us at [info@thenccaom.org](mailto:info@thenccaom.org) and attach your Doctorate degree transcript. Our dedicated staff member will properly record it on your account.

**Question:** Do you have data on how often the FAP is actually used by patients and how often it takes for people to make appointments with us?

**Answer:** The NCCAOM **Find A Practitioner** Directory is the most visited page on the website. Below please see the aggregate data from Google Analytics. Unfortunately, it is not possible to collect any other data after the user has left the FAP page.

Web Page	2021 Visits	2022 Visits
Find A Practitioner Directory	45,466	42,945

**Question:** Is there a difference in which order to show credentials for CA license or should I show NCCAOM before the L.Ac.?

**Answer:** Credentials after Diplomate’s name should be placed in order they were received. If Diplomate obtained NCCAOM certification first and then the

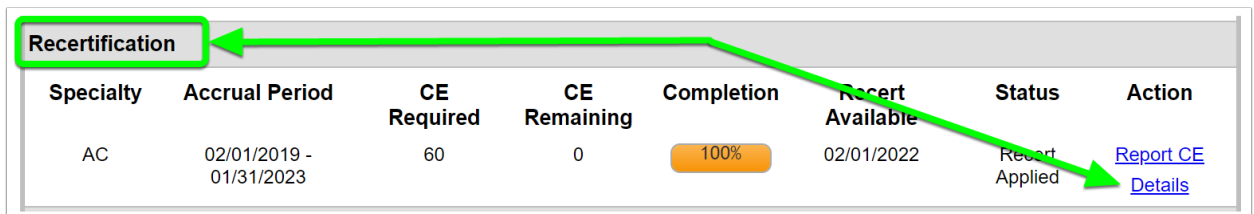
state acupuncture license, the NCCAOM designation must be placed before L.Ac.. If a state acupuncture license was obtained first and then the NCCAOM certification, the L.Ac. credential should precede the NCCAOM credential.

**Question:** Will you offer synchronization of recertification dates/ consolidate to same renewal date for diplomates with several NCCAOM certifications?

**Answer:** The NCCAOM certification database sets renewals on a 4-year fiscal certification cycle and unfortunately does not allow for pro-rating the recertification fees for a partial year. The good news is that any PDA course earned can be used towards the recertification’s sixty (60) required points in multiple certifications even though the expiration dates are different.

**Question:** Is there a way to check the current status of my PDA/CEUs?

**Answer:** Yes, Diplomates can always monitor their Recertification Transcript by logging in to their Certification account and clicking the “Details” link in the Recertification section:



Specialty	Accrual Period	CE Required	CE Remaining	Completion	Recert Available	Status	Action
AC	02/01/2019 - 01/31/2023	60	0	100%	02/01/2022	Recert Applied	<a href="#">Report CE Details</a>

**Question:** Can we use the free website from ChiOnline if we are an integrated practice with another discipline?

**Answer:** The free Chi Online websites can be used by all active NCCAOM Diplomates, and you may list the full range of services your practice offers.

**Question:** I hold an NCCAOM certification in Acupuncture, but I want to obtain the herbal one. What’s the difference between converting to OM and getting an NCCAOM Certification in Chinese Herbology?

**Answer:** NCCAOM Oriental Medicine Certification demonstrates training in both acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine under one umbrella certification. Diplomates holding an NCCAOM certification in Acupuncture who apply for conversion to Oriental Medicine or to attain certification in Chinese Herbology, must have completed an accredited degree program in Oriental Medicine or completed education training in Chinese Herbology (ACAHM certificate program or apprenticeship training), demonstrate having completed 21 hours of coursework in diet, nutrition, or exercise, and pass the Chinese Herbology and Biomedicine (if not passed previously). Diplomate of Acupuncture may:

- A. Complete and submit the application for Conversion to Oriental Medicine certification. [Click here](#) for step-by-step instructions. [Click here](#) for instructions for application submission.
- OR**
- B. To obtain a certification in Chinese Herbology requires a separate application for Chinese Herbology Certification. Contact the NCCAOM at [info@thenccaom.org](mailto:info@thenccaom.org).

If converted to Oriental Medicine certification, the Diplomate is required to maintain the OM certification only, the Acupuncture certification will become dormant and will not need to be renewed. If a separate Chinese herbology certification is obtained, the Diplomate is required to maintain both - Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology certifications through the recertification renewal process.

**Question:** What are the requirements for NCCAOM Emeritus-Retired Designation?

**Answer:** To apply for NCCAOM Emeritus-Retired Designation, the Diplomate:

- Must have held active NCCAOM certification for a minimum if eight (8) years OR has become disabled and can no longer perform AHM tasks.
- Is currently at active or inactive NCCAOM certification status; an NCCAOM Diplomate who has become disabled and was certified active or holding inactive status with the NCCAOM at the time of their disability.
- Is no longer providing direct clinical care including acupuncture services, herbal treatments, or Asian Bodywork treatments, and.
- Is free and clear of all disciplinary actions.

Instructions on how to apply for NCCAOM Emeritus-Retired Designation are [available here](#).

**Question:** Is CHCS COQ in addition to or included in the NCCAOM certification for Oriental Medicine?

**Answer:** CHCS COQ is an assessment based multiple module course that we offer. This is not another certification (i.e. NCCAOM certification in AC, CH, OM where you had to take the board exams). This course is completed as a part of Diplomates' continuing education providing 10 PDA points and a Digital Badge upon course completion.



**Question:** What countries recognize NCCAOM certification?

**Answer:** Countries such as Australia, Dubai, Switzerland, United Kingdom recognize NCCAOM Certification.

**Question:** What is the best way to confirm scope of practice in the varying states?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, we do not have an all-in-one encompassing source that includes all different state's scope of practices. One would have to research each state of interest for its Scope of Practice.

However, we do have an interactive state map that links to each state acupuncture regulatory board website: <https://www.nccaom.org/state-licensure/>.

**Question:** How can we find state maps on the NCCAOM website?

**Answer:** If you want to find state maps on the NCCAOM website:

1. Go to the homepage ([www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org)).
2. Look for the "Advocacy/regulatory" menu option.
3. Click on the "State Relations" sub-menu option.

The state maps will appear on the new page that comes up after clicking on "State Relations."

**Question:** Please explain the portability in US across states?

**Answer:** 46 states plus District of Columbia require NCCAOM exams or full certification as a pre-requisite for state license. As long as certified Diplomates keep their NCCAOM certification active, they will be able to obtain a state license to practice acupuncture in any state (except California) that regulates acupuncture. NCCAOM exams or certification is one of the state requirements, each state may have additional requirements like Jurisprudence exam.

**Question:** Is there a plan to allow acupuncture to be done in Puerto Rico by Licensed Acupuncturists?

**Answer:** The NCCAOM is working with practitioners in Puerto Rico to help shape the Practice Act that will allow certified and licensed practitioners to provide acupuncture.