FPPE and OPPE Are More than Just Acronyms
But What Does It Mean to ME?

In the vocabulary of hospital medicine, acronyms, abbreviations and initialisms are ubiquitous and well understood by PAs. When faced with the notation “75 y.o. w.m. w/hx/o IDDM, CHF, HTN, CAD and RA presents with CC/o CP and SOB,” it’s quite clear that a 75-year-old white male with a history of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease and rheumatoid arthritis presents with chief complaint of chest pain and shortness of breath.

Yet, many PAs are stumped by the acronyms FPPE and OPPE. Focused Professional Performance Evaluation, or FPPE, and Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation, or OPPE, are Joint Commission standards from the Medical Staff chapter of the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals and Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Critical Access Hospitals. FPPE and OPPE affect PAs and other practitioners who are credentialed and privileged through the medical staff process. A hospital's
FPPE and OPPE are each meant to establish the competence of the practitioner to perform the privileges granted in order to ensure the provision of safe and quality patient care.

The ultimate goal of FPPE/OPPE is to ensure quality care and patient safety by monitoring the competence, activities and behavior of practitioners privileged to provide patient care. Joint Commission surveyors will be looking for documentation of the hospital’s FPPE/OPPE processes and how they are applied to the credentialing and privileging process for its practitioners, including PAs.


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AAPA has created a sample, PA-specific, FPPE/OPPE form. For more information on the form, contact Tricia Marriott at tmarrriott@aapa.org.