

13 June 2018

Professor Aggie Tiwari,
Chairperson, Nursing Council of Hong Kong and
Members of the Working Group on
Advanced Specialised Nursing Practice

Dear Professor Tiwari and Members of the Working Group,

We understand the Nursing Council, under the instruction of the Food & Health Bureau, has set up a working group on advanced and specialized nursing practice. The working group was asked to prescribe guidelines on the scope and competencies of nurses with advanced expertise and devise a mechanism to recognize training institutes in the area.

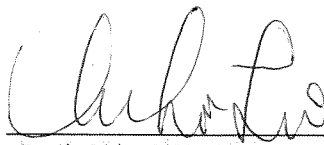
The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (HKAN) in the last couple of years have been working very closely with The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the University of Hong Kong to accomplish the tasks that the working group was asked to do. The universities took advantage of HKAN's wide representation of nursing specialties in Hong Kong and shaped our Master in Nursing programs to side with the curriculum requirements set out by the 14 Academy Colleges affiliated with the HKAN. Each of the Academy Colleges has its specific set of competencies adapted from the umbrella framework of HKAN, curriculum content and clinical logbook, based on international experiences on advanced nursing practice. This close collaboration can ensure that the universities are preparing nurses at advanced practice level with competencies defined by the profession and in fulfillment of the service needs. We understand the HKAN is working with the Hospital Authority to align the clinical objectives of the Academy Colleges in respective specialties with the expected competencies of nurses in frontline practice as the nurses progress from novice to expert. Pilot schemes will be introduced in HA to facilitate experiential learning for nurses to accomplish these clinical objectives.

We welcome the Nursing Council in taking the lead to set standards and regulate advanced nursing practice in Hong Kong. We are the three UGC-funded universities that offer postgraduate programs for nurses with well-established quality assurance and governance mechanism. The HKAN also has a system in place to ensure standards of the specialty programs and their delivery, proper conduct of assessments in admitting their Members/Fellows. We ask the Nursing Council to capitalize on the ground work already laid down by the HKAN and the UGC-funded Schools of Nursing, that involves the concerted efforts of nursing specialty experts in Hong Kong. We are pleased to support the Nursing Council in this complex and difficult task to safeguard patient safety by setting and regulating standards and competencies of advanced nursing practice and we hope to significantly contribute to consultation in due course.

Your sincerely,



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