



# The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing

## 香港護理專科學院

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18 June 2018

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Panel on Health Services,

The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing and its 14 Academy Colleges with over 2600 strong advanced practicing nurses in Hong Kong would like to state that we support the government to impose a total ban on e-cigarettes and all forms of new tobacco products, including heat-not-burn (HNB) tobacco products.

As healthcare professionals, we witness the harm of cigarettes on individual and population health. Scientific evidence has shown that there are increased chances of diseases such as lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and stroke with the consumption of tobacco products. Exposure to secondhand and third-hand smoke is also causally linked to cancer, respiratory, and cardiovascular diseases, and have adverse effects on the health of pregnant women and fetus, infants and children.

E-cigarettes contain nicotine and are addictive, causing harm to body. The current use rate of e-cigarettes among young smokers aged 15-19 years (15.8%) was significantly higher than that of smokers aged 30 years or above. Youth who are still in the stage of development, are affected particularly in brain health and thus growth and learning. Like all addictive products, it can lead to the use of other addictive substances, reduce impulse control, deficits in attention and cognition, and mood disorders. These products, packaged in different flavor and trendy appearances, will lure the young people to consume as a fashionable act. The claim of these products containing less harmful ingredients than cigarettes is not only untrue but misleading. Harmful products are dangerous and should not be consumed at all. Studies have shown that young starter of e-cigarettes users tend to progress using combusted products in their later lives. Heat-not-burn products carry similar health hazards.

Prevention is the best measure and regulation on the **TOTAL BAN** of any form of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, HNB tobacco products and others is absolutely necessary. We strongly ask the government to take vigilant measures in safeguarding the health of the public of Hong Kong.

The undersigned and listed Colleges (Appendix) have given the consent to issue the statement to all stakeholders and parties concerned. Thank you!

Frances Kam Yuet WONG  
RN PhD FAAN FHKAN (Education & Research)  
President, The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing

Supporting Academy Colleges

Hong Kong College of Cardiac Nursing

Hong Kong College of Community and Public Health Nursing

Hong Kong College of Critical Care Nursing

Hong Kong College of Education and Research in Nursing

Hong Kong College of Emergency Nursing

Hong Kong College of Gerontology Nursing

Hong Kong College of Medical Nursing

Hong Kong College of Mental Health Nursing

Hong Kong College of Midwives

Hong Kong College of Nursing and Health Care Management

Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Nursing

Hong Kong College of Paediatric Nursing

Hong Kong College of Perioperative Nursing

Hong Kong College of Surgical Nursing