



The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing
香港護理專科學院

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Professor Agnes TIWARI
Chairman
Nursing Council of Hong Kong

28 August 2019

Honorary Legal Advisor

Mr. Lester G. HUANG

Dear Professor Tiwari,

Honorary Auditor

Mr. William W.H. CHAN

Honorary Consultant

Mr. Tony Y.H. YEN

**Re: Proposal on Implementation of the Voluntary Scheme on
Advanced and Specialised Nursing Practice**

HKAN Council

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Ms. Amy Y.M. OR

Mr. Andrew C.Y. TSE

Mr. Jimmy K.W. WONG

Mr. Frederick K.K. YEUNG

Thank you for leading a Working Group (WG) under the Nursing Council of Hong Kong (NCHK) as instructed by the Food & Health Bureau to establish guidelines on scope of practice and core competencies, mechanisms in recognizing the standards of advanced practice nurses and the training institutes.

The forum held on 25 January early this year was helpful to introduce the initial work done by the WG. The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (HKAN) enthusiastically responded to the call for comments, both in the format of individual letters and generous provision of the specialty syllabi and logbooks by all 14 Academy Colleges. We acknowledge in the initial phase, the adoption of specified criteria to recognize Registered Nurses as Advanced Practice Nurses and the HKAN Fellowship is one of the accepted criteria.

The HKAN, however, is **disappointed and perplexed** that in the NCHK's report submitted to the Bureau, the HKAN and Academy Colleges are ignored in the WG subsequent phase of work. This is a lack of insight in the history of the development of advanced nursing practice in Hong Kong and short of foresight of how HKAN and Academy Colleges can support the government to realize the policy direction for advancing nursing. It has been stated in the submitted feedback, substantiated with College documents, that the HKAN and Academy Colleges have set clear competence framework, education standards and assessment criteria for certifying nurses who are performing at the advanced practice level in specified specialty areas. The HKAN and Academy Colleges have been working closely with the universities that provide Master programs and the Hospital Authority and private hospitals to facilitate theoretical education and clinical training. The HKAN is the only professional body in Hong Kong that has done the ground work, over the last 15 years, in setting standards and building mechanisms for advanced nursing practice with the involvement of nurse leaders and clinical experts in both the public and private sectors. The 14 Academy Colleges house essentially all the nursing specialties and experts in practice in Hong Kong.

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We understand among the feedback collected by the NCHK, a great majority came from HKAN Fellows and Academy Colleges. All asserted that the experiences and critical mass of experts from both the public and private sectors accumulated in the HKAN can contribute greatly to expedite the process to establish a mechanism to register the specialized nurses at advanced practice level in Hong Kong. We appeal to NCHK to take into account of the suggestions collected and **be accountable to colleagues** who have faithfully responded to the NCHK's call for feedback.

The NCHK suggested to form her own 16 specialty groups to set specialty competencies, educational requirements, and accreditation process. This is **impracticable**, if not impossible. The experts should govern expert practice, and the NCHK does not house advanced clinical nurse specialists with the relevant expertise. The formation of the 16 specialty work groups within the NCHK inviting experts as committee members is a long and tedious process. Why not make use of the available resources and facilities that are already well established in the HKAN? We appeal to NCHK not to reinvent the wheels nor duplicate the efforts, but consider involving HKAN and Academy Colleges as a certifying agent. The HKAN can submit the recognized list for training institutes and advanced practice nurses to NCHK for regulation.

We ask for your responses to the HKAN, Academy Colleges and Fellows why the suggestions of involving HKAN more in the accreditation of the training institutes and certification of advanced practice nurses is not considered in the report submitted to the Bureau. The HKAN is ready to support the government policy and we simply request the NCHK not to ignore HKAN as an important stakeholder in the endeavor of setting standards and recognizing the advanced practice nurses in Hong Kong with the ultimate aim of attaining statutory status.

We thank you for spending time to read our concerns. We look forward to your reply!

Yours Sincerely,

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

c.c.: Prof. Sophia CHAN, Secretary for Food and Health
Members, Nursing Council of Hong Kong
Members, Working Group on Advanced and Specialized Nursing Practice