



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局  
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

*Our Ref.: FHB/H/1/5.*  
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16 November 2016

Ms Maisie LAM  
Clerk to Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lam,

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**  
**Follow-up action to the meeting on 16 May 2016**

At the captioned meeting, the Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on the accredited registers scheme for healthcare personnel who are currently not subject to statutory regulation. The supplementary information is enclosed for reference.

Yours sincerely,

( Miss Natalie LAU )  
for Secretary for Food and Health

Encl.

**Panel on Health Services Meeting held on 16 May 2016**  
**Voluntary accredited registers scheme for healthcare personnel who are**  
**currently not subject to statutory regulation**  
**Government's response to the follow-up actions**

**Manpower supply of clinical psychologists and educational psychologists**

Regarding the manpower supply of clinical psychologists and educational psychologists, the Government and the University Grants Committee (“UGC”) conduct academic planning for UGC-funded institutions on a triennial basis. The Labour and Welfare Bureau and Education Bureau will, with due regard to the prevailing manpower situation of clinical psychologists and educational psychologists, continue to liaise with the UGC in order to set manpower requirement targets for each academic planning cycle according to actual demand and availability of resources.

**The framework, standards, requirements and accreditation process of the Accredited Registers Scheme**

2. The Department of Health commissioned the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”) to conduct a feasibility study on launching an accredited registers scheme (“the Scheme”) for non-statutorily regulated healthcare professions in Hong Kong and propose a set of framework and standards for the Scheme. The preliminary framework, standards and requirements of the Scheme proposed by CUHK is at [Annex](#).

3. CUHK has been maintaining close liaison with the healthcare professions about the proposed framework, standards, requirements and accreditation process of the Scheme. CUHK organised a half-day symposium for healthcare professionals in September 2014 to share experience of the Accredited Voluntary Registers Model in the United Kingdom. In addition, CUHK held three consultation forums in October 2015 and conducted eight training sessions during May to September 2016 on the details of the Scheme.

**Food and Health Bureau**  
**November 2016**

## **Accredited Registers Scheme Preliminary Proposals on Framework, Standards and Requirements**

### **Background**

Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme is a self-assessment and external peer review process conducted by an independent team of Surveyors to assess organisations that register practitioners of a healthcare profession which is not already regulated by statute, in order to provide assurance that the accredited registers are well maintained and the organisations can enable the achievement of high professional standards among its registrants.

The AR Scheme is a process that emphasizes governance, standards, evaluation, and continuous improvement.

The accreditation process is developmental and starts with a Pilot Project. The AR Scheme encourages and helps professions to assess their current standards and identify areas for improvement.

The accreditation process is not mandatory and is by application.

Approval for holding and maintaining a register is not automatic, and only professional organisations that maintain registers which have met the prescribed standards and requirements will have their application considered and approved.

### **Objectives**

By accrediting organisations as holders of registers which demonstrate the ability of the profession to meet acceptable standards of quality, the AR Scheme aims

1. To protect the public through quality assurance; and
2. To uphold standards of the professions registered.

### **Target**

At the pilot stage, the AR Scheme targets at the 15 non-statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners<sup>1</sup> under the health services functional constituency. If other professionals have a genuine interest in joining the pilot scheme as one of the pioneers, their requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The professional body should have a broad representative of the corresponding profession and with an established operation for a substantive period (including those newly formed professional body which is set up from re-structuring or merging of other established associations / societies). Register function, education and training and professional standards are key elements of a professional body.

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<sup>1</sup> Audiologists, Audiology Technicians, Chiropodists (also known as 'Podiatrist'), Clinical Psychologists, Dental Surgery Assistants, Dental technologists / Dental technicians, Dental Therapists, Dietitians, Dispensers, Educational Psychologists, Mould Laboratory Technicians, Orthoptists, Prosthetists, Scientific Officers (Medical), Speech Therapists

## **The Standards for Accreditation**

1. Governance
2. Operational effectiveness
3. Risk management and quality improvement
4. Standards for registrants
5. Educational and training requirements
6. Management of the Register