



LC Paper No. CB(2)348/18-19(102)

The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists Ltd.

香港精神科醫學院

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

30 November 2018

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Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

Chairman

Panel on Health Services

Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Regional of the People's Republic of China

Dear Dr CHAN,

The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists welcomes the ongoing exercise in building up an Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme for Healthcare Professions (Pilot Scheme) commissioned by the Department of Health. Clinical Psychologists are important members of multi-disciplinary teams in the delivery of mental health care. We would like to express our position on the AR Scheme for Clinical Psychologists for your consideration:

1. A proper clinical standard needs to be benchmarked against long-established local and international standards. Practising professionals from different clinical psychology training programmes would need to be appraised in accordance with this standard.
2. The basis of the clinical standard needs to rest on the training programmes through which clinical psychologists acquire their knowledge as well as relevant real-life practical skills.
3. Among the various components in a training programme, Supervised Clinical Practice is highly vital, since competence in clinical skills and the ability to apply psychological knowledge are the absolute minimum expected of a practising clinical psychologist.
4. Supervised clinical practice specifically refers to an on-site supervision by an adequately-qualified clinical psychologist who is accountable for the service provided and responsible for the clinical psychology trainee's clinical performance in the placement setting.
5. This should also cover an adequate duration and different clientele across age groups, presenting problems and settings with multidisciplinary collaboration.
6. In an accreditation of training, the above consideration should be applied regardless of whether the training is local or overseas. It is envisaged that in the transitional stage of accreditation there would be clinical psychologists who meet with the required standard, and those practising but fall short of the standard, in the community. Some may be offered remedial programmes. It is important that the public is informed clearly about the differentiation.



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7. For those falling short, remedial measures can only be instituted for those having had clinical psychology training up to an acceptable standard, and holding proof of practice for a substantial period in Hong Kong with a good standing.

Over the years, the established Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) of the Hong Kong Psychological Society Limited has been taking up the responsibility of upholding the professional standard in Clinical Psychology in Hong Kong. Before statutory registration for the profession is in place, the Division has maintained a society-based register since the early 90s. DCP has been a partner with the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists in many mental health issues in the past, and we acknowledge their mission in protecting public welfare as well as continuous development of the profession in Hong Kong.

We look forward to an AR Scheme that serves to enhance mental health care to the local community. We would also be ready to be involved, where appropriate, in both the building up of the AR Scheme and the regulatory body for the profession when the Scheme is established. Further communication, if required, can be directed to me via email at hkpsych@hkam.org.hk.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Eric CHEN

President

The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists



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