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Date: Friday, November 30, 2018 11:45AM
Subject: RE: Accredited Registration Scheme for Clinical Psychologists:

To: All members of Panel on Health Services,

I was brought to the attention over the AR Scheme for Clinical Psychologists.

As a specialist psychiatrist, I have been working with clinical psychologists in both public and private sectors for the past 24 years. My trust in working with clinical psychologists is based on a proper clinical supervision system (with similarity to our medical training). Clinical supervision is supposed to be normally take place on face-to-face basis by a qualified trainer, who can provide on-site guidance to the trainee. In addition, particularly in psychological services, the trainer is also supposed to have adequate understanding of the language and socio-cultural background for the population served (if translation service is required, this should be provided by a qualified translator and should not be solely relying on the translation by the trainee, either in verbal or written form).

Some parties may have raised that there is a change in the Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) policy on supervision by the British Psychological Society over the requirement of clinical supervision (2014 version) over the alternative approach in clinical supervision that "These approaches all have benefits, even if primarily pragmatic, but there would also be disadvantages and a situation where a psychologist did not receive face-to-face and one-to-one supervision with reasonable frequency would not be considered acceptable practice" to the Standards for the Accreditation of Doctoral Programmes in Clinical Psychology (2017 version) that "There must be a formal, scheduled supervision meeting each week that must be of at least an hour's duration. Supervision should normally take place on a face-to-face basis, although education providers may specify within the contract any circumstances under which alternative arrangements may be put in place. The supervision required may differ depending on the stage of development of the trainee and any specific learning needs that may have been identified". However, I cannot see the above change suggesting a reason to accept a program without an on-site supervision by a qualified trainer during the majority part of the training for a practicing clinical psychologist.

In summary, I would like to re-emphasize again the importance of on-site clinical supervision in accreditation exercise.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Fong Yat Yuk Samson
Specialist-in-Psychiatry