

**STANDARDS FOR
ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE
CLINICAL EDUCATION**



SINGAPORE NURSING BOARD

Preface

Clinical nursing education focuses on developing, refining and applying students' classroom knowledge and skills to manage care as part of an interprofessional team in a clinical setting.

Clinical practice placements expose students to practical issues such as technological innovations, unpredictable care transitions, fast-paced environment and complex system issues. Clinical nursing education will allow students to learn from their experiences and role models on the ground and prepare them for entry-level practice in a complex and diverse healthcare environment.

Nursing programmes must ensure sufficient clinical placements across a range of practice settings and across the continuum of care. Placements must be safe, supportive, and conducive for groups of students to practice and to develop their professional roles within defined scopes of practice.

Singapore Nursing Board's (SNB) Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) Training Committee have reviewed and established standards and measurable quality indicators for APN clinical education. The objective is to ensure that students are provided with sufficient breadth and depth of learning to hone their competencies for entry level practice as an APN. Students will also be exposed to diverse client population across the life span in various types of settings.

Laboratory and simulation experiences provide students with an effective and safe environment to learn and apply the cognitive and performance skills needed for actual practice. Simulation is a valuable element of clinical preparation. Client care experiences with actual clients form the most important component of clinical education. Direct client care clinical experiences provide valuable opportunities for student learning not found in other settings.

These Standards will complement the Standards for Advanced Practice Nurse Education and sets the requirements by which SNB accredits the clinical areas to facilitate holistic clinical education for the APN student.

Registrar
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Standards for Advanced Practice Nurse Clinical Education

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STANDARD ONE: GOVERNANCE AND COLLABORATION

The Education Institution and Clinical Placement Provider are jointly accountable for providing clinical placements that achieve the goals and outcomes of the Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) education programme.

Quality Indicators

- 1.1 The Education Institution is responsible to seek out appropriate Clinical Placement Provider(s) that meets the clinical education outcomes of their programmes.
- 1.2 The Education Institution has a formal and written agreement with the Clinical Placement Provider(s).
- 1.3 The Education Institution and Clinical Placement Provider are responsible to ensure and maintain standards of APN clinical education.
- 1.4 Both Education Institution and Clinical Placement Provider have policies and procedures that incorporate best practice/quality assurance statement(s) to support students' clinical learning.
- 1.5 The Clinical Placement Provider shall provide a named Registered Nurse (RN) to serve as a Clinical Placement Coordinator to liaise with the Education institution to facilitate clinical education for nursing students. This Clinical Placement Coordinator has oversight of the clinical placement's schedule and provides resources and support for students' learning in the clinical setting.
- 1.6 The Education Institution shall appoint a named APN who is a staff member as a Clinical Programme Coordinator. The Clinical Programme Coordinator plans, develops and organises clinical education activities to achieve the programme's learning goals and outcomes.

STANDARD ONE: GOVERNANCE AND COLLABORATION

- 1.7 The Clinical Programme Coordinator together with the Clinical Placement Coordinator shall oversee and co-ordinate the students' overall clinical education to achieve their learning outcomes.
- 1.8 The Clinical Placement Provider uses the evaluations of clinical practicum experiences to improve the quality of clinical placement.
- 1.9 The Clinical Programme Coordinator provides ongoing communication to the Clinical Placement Provider about any change in nursing curriculum or assessment methodology and/or clinical grading criteria. This is to ensure compliance to changes made.
- 1.10 The Education Institution shall submit to SNB a notice of any significant change in resources or facilities that may affect students' clinical learning within (3) months.

STANDARD TWO: LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Clinical Placement Provider is responsible in setting up an optimal learning environment, including best practices in APN clinical education to achieve students' clinical learning outcomes.

Quality Indicators

- 2.1. The Clinical Placement Provider shall assign Preceptors to supervise, guide and assess student's performance.
- 2.2. The student is orientated to the healthcare facility on the first day of clinical placement.
- 2.3. The Clinical Placement Provider shall support and embrace/promote:
 - i) the provision of a learning environment that facilitates integration of theory into practice; and
 - ii) advanced practice nursing that adheres to SNB's Professional Scope of Practice for APN.
- 2.4. Students will have access to learning resources such as relevant books, journals, e-learning facilities and equipment.
- 2.5. The number of students assigned to each clinical area may be determined collaboratively by both education institution and clinical practice placement provider, to achieve optimal learning outcomes for students.

STANDARD THREE: CLINICAL LEARNING

The Education Institution and Clinical Placement Provider are accountable for facilitating students' clinical learning and outcomes appropriate to their level of competency.

Quality Indicators

- 3.1 The student is allocated with an appropriate client care workload and is able to demonstrate expected levels of advanced practice nursing competencies.
- 3.2 The clinical learning practicum shall include:
 - i) establishing achievable learning outcomes at the beginning of the clinical placement;
 - ii) opportunities to experience holistic client care at their level of training or stipulated milestones; and
 - iii) opportunities to demonstrate and be assessed on competencies at the advanced nursing practice level.
- 3.3 The student is given opportunities to:
 - i) set their learning objectives; and
 - ii) reflect on their clinical learning and evaluate whether their learning objectives have been achieved.
 - iii) access to training resources in the clinical areas.
 - iv) have regular sessions with preceptors for learning and assessment purpose.

STANDARD FOUR: ROLE OF CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS AND CLINICAL PRECEPTORS

The Education Institution and Clinical Placement Provider are accountable for allocating Clinical Instructors and Preceptors to optimise students' learning during clinical practicum.

Quality Indicators

- 4.1. The Clinical Instructor is from the Education Institution and/or Clinical Placement Provider. He/she provides guidance, supervision assessment and support for a group of students during their clinical placement period.

- 4.2. The Clinical Instructor:
 - i) ensures that the clinical practicum facilitates the achievement of the stipulated clinical learning outcomes;
 - ii) ensures that the clinical placement promotes integration of theory to practice;
 - iii) provides regular feedback to the Clinical Placement Provider to improve the quality of the students' clinical experiences; and
 - iv) conducts clinical assessment of students.

- 4.3. The Clinical Instructor is an APN:
 - i) with minimum 3 years' clinical experience (excludes internship);
 - ii) has recognised skills in the related area of practice and
 - iii) has an interest in teaching & learning and have successfully completed an accredited Clinical Instructor (CI) course and/or teaching and assessing course facilitated by academic/healthcare institutions.

- 4.4. The ratio of Clinical Instructors to students is not more than 1 Clinical Instructor to 6 students, in order to provide adequate supervision throughout the clinical practicum.

STANDARD FOUR: ROLE OF CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS AND CLINICAL PRECEPTORS

- 4.5. The student is allocated to a Preceptor who provides individualised guidance, supervision, support and assessment for student's learning experience.
- 4.6. The Preceptor is responsible for:
 - i) supporting and enabling student's learning;
 - ii) providing appropriate supervision of nursing students that is relevant to the student's level of learning; and
 - iii) conducting clinical assessment of students.
- 4.7. The Preceptor is a medical specialist or an APN with 3 years' experience (excludes internship) in the area of practice.
- 4.8. Each Preceptor shall be assigned to a maximum of 2 students at any one time.
- 4.9. The Preceptor will receive assistance, guidance and support from the Clinical Placement Coordinator, Clinical Programme Coordinator in performing their preceptor roles and responsibilities.

STANDARD FIVE: ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

The Clinical Instructor and Preceptor are responsible to perform formative and summative assessment of the students and to provide feedback on their clinical performance.

Quality Indicators

- 5.1. Clinical assessments are conducted at regular interval as prescribed by the educational institution.
- 5.2. Specific feedback on students' performances is given regularly and in a timely manner to reinforce good performances and to encourage and respect students' efforts.
- 5.3. Clinical Instructors or Preceptors conduct debriefing sessions to facilitate students' reflection of their practice and evaluation of their clinical performance.
- 5.4. Clinical Instructors and Preceptors communicate and collaborate as a team to facilitate student assessments and evaluate the effectiveness of the overall clinical education.
- 5.5. The evaluation of the clinical placement is:
 - i) obtained from students and Preceptors at the completion of each clinical placement;
 - ii) facilitated by the Clinical Instructor in collaboration with the Clinical Placement Coordinator to evaluate the effectiveness of clinical learning; and
 - iii) used by the Clinical Placement Provider and Education Institutions to make improvements to the clinical learning experience and adopt best practices.

GLOSSARY

Assessment	The process of evaluating the extent to which students have achieved their expected clinical learning outcomes.
Clinical Placement Coordinator:	<p>A nursing staff member (Registered Nurse from a Clinical Placement Provider who liaises with the Education Institution(s) to facilitate clinical education for nursing students. He/ She has oversight of the clinical placement's schedule and provides resources and support for students' learning in the clinical setting.</p> <p>Clinical education of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) will be provided by an Advanced Practice Nurse (may be adjunct staff with the Education Institution) of a Clinical Placement Provider. He/she may also serve as a Clinical Instructor if he/she meets the criteria.</p>
Clinical Placement Provider	A hospital, institution or healthcare service provider that is accredited by the Singapore Nursing Board to provide students access to their clinical areas for their clinical education.
Clinical Instructor (CI):	The Clinical instructor is an Advanced Practice Nurse with at least 3 years of clinical practice experience (excluding internship).
Clinical Preceptor (CP):	The Preceptor is a medical specialist from the Clinical Placement Provider or an Advanced Practice Nurse, from the Clinical Placement Provider working in the same area for at least 3 years (excluding internship).
Clinical Programme Coordinator:	A nursing education staff member from an Education Institution who plans, develops and organises clinical education activities to achieve the programme's learning goals and outcomes.
Evaluation	The process of appraising the overall effectiveness of clinical education programme and to make improvements to maintain the quality of the programme.

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