

**STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION
APPLIED BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMME
IN NURSING**



ALMATY 2023

**EURASIAN CENTRE FOR ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE**

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APPLIED BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMME IN NURSING**

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1. **DEVELOPED** by Non-profit Entity “Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care”.
2. **APPROVED** by the ECAQA Experts Board (#1, 06.06.2023) and **INTRODUCED** by the Order #16 June 15, 2023 of the Director General, Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care.
3. In this standard, the Provisions of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education» July 27, 2007, #319-III (with Amendments from June 1, 2023) has been introduced.

These standards have been developed based on the International Standards of the World Federation for Medical Education for Improving the Quality of Basic Medical Education, as well as policy documents from WHO/Eurobureau on the development of nursing education: Strategic Directions for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery in Europe to Achieve the Health 2020 Policy Goals; Strategic Directions for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery: 2016–2020; the Global Standards for the Initial Education of Professional Nurses and Midwives; EU Directive 2013/55/EU on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications; and in accordance with the national and institutional needs and priorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan’s health care system.

These standards are intended for the accreditation of applied bachelor’s degree programmes in “Nursing” offered by higher medical (nursing) colleges.

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STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION APPLIED BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMME IN NURSING

GENERAL PROVISION

1. Application and Use of Standards

1.1 The Standards for accreditation define the general provisions and requirements for quality of educational programme at the HEIs for Health Professions Education

1.2 The Standards is a tool for quality assurance and quality improvement nursing education.

1.3 The Standards should be used for educational programme accreditation and carrying out external evaluation of applied bachelor degree programme in nursing.

1.4 The Standards should be used for the educational programme self-evaluation and its improvement, support the development quality assurance and of the quality culture.

2. Reference to Regulations and Law

The Standard references to the following Laws and Regulations:

2.1 Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 7, 2020, No. 360-VI LRK. On Public Health and the Healthcare System, Section 4, Chapter 25. Educational Activities in Healthcare. Article 222. Residency.

2.2 The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education» July 27, 2007, #319-III (with Amendments from 01.06.2023)

2.3 On Approval of the Concept for the Development of Healthcare in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2026. Area 4. Improving the Efficiency of the Personnel Training and Advanced Training System. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 24, 2022 No. 945

2.1 On Approval of the Standard Rules for the Activities of Educational Organizations of the Relevant Types, Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 30, 2018, No. 595.

2.4 Labor Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 414-V of November 23, 2015, as amended and supplemented on January 7, 2021.

2.5 About approving the Concept for the Development of Preschool, Secondary, Technical, and Vocational Education in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2029. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 249, dated March 28, 2023.

2.6 On the Approval of State Mandatory Standards for Preschool Education and Training, Elementary, Lower Secondary, and Upper Secondary Education, Technical and Vocational Education, and Postsecondary Education. Order of the Minister of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 348, dated August 3, 2022. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on August 5, 2022, No. 29031.

2.7 On the Approval of Rules for the Provision of Nursing Care. Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. ҚР ДСМ-199/2020 dated November 23, 2020. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on November 25, 2020, under No. 21674.

2.8 “On the Approval of Model Rules for Admission to Educational Institutions Offering Technical and Vocational Education Programs.” Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 578 dated October 18, 2018.

2.9 On Amendments to the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated April 20, 2011 No. 152 “On approval of the Rules for the organisation of the educational process on credit technology of education”. Order No. 563 of October 12, 2018.

2.10 The Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Health' Order №530 from July 17,2017. About Amendments to the Ministry of Health and Social Development Order №647 from July 31, 2015 “On approval of the State Compulsory Standards for Education and Programmes of Medical and Pharmaceutical Education” that includes the Applied Bachelor Degree Programme in Nursing.

2.11 On the Approval of Requirements and Rules for the Recognition of Accreditation Bodies, Including Foreign Ones. Order of the Minister of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 34, dated February 13, 2023. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on February 14, 2023, under No. 31902.

3. Terms and Definitions

The Terms and Definitions are used to clarify, amplify expressions in the Standards and refer to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Education» July 27, 2007, #319-III (with Amendments from 01.06.2023), The Labor Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan of November 23, 2015 No. 414-V Article119 “Dual Learning”, with amendments on 06/04/2016 and the World Federation for Medical Education Global Standards for Quality Improvement in Basic Medical Education (Revision 2015):

1) **Accrediting agencies**– legal entities that develop set of Standards (Guidelines) and accredit ofthe HEIs that as the institutions meet predefined quality Standards (Guidelines);

2) **Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions**–recognition procedure used in higher education by accreditation agency that confirms the Education, Research and Service compliance with and meet predefined standards (guidelines)in order to provide the evidence about their quality and improvement of the internal quality assurance mechanisms;

3) **Institutional accreditation**– external evaluation by the accrediting agency and its formal and independent decision indicating that a higher education institution meets certain predefined standards and current status as the HEI;

4) **International accreditation**–external evaluation of the higher education institutions (institutional accreditation) or educational programmes (specialized accreditation) that meet predefined standards (guidelines) and its should be carried out by the national or foreign accrediting agency recognized and listed on Register #1 of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Science;

5) **National accreditation**–external evaluation of the higher education institutions (institutional accreditation) or educational programmes (specialized accreditation) that meet predefined standards (guidelines)and its should be carried out by the national accrediting agency recognized and listed on Register #1 of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Science;

6) **Educational programme accreditation**-recognition procedure used in higher education by accreditation agency that confirms the educational programmes compliance with and meet predefined standards (guidelines) in order to provide the evidence about their quality and improvement of the internal quality assurance mechanisms;

7) **Standards (Guidelines) for accreditation**– external evaluation of the quality assurance of educational programmes that offered by the nursing college

8) **Dual learning** - a form of training, combining training in the organization of education with compulsory periods of training and practice in the enterprise with the provision of jobs and compensation payments for students with equal responsibility of the enterprise, educational institution and student;

9) **The agreement on dual learning** - a written agreement between the trainee and the organization that provides the workplace for the conduct of practice-based training and clinical practice, and the educational institution that regulates the learning environment and requirements for the clinical practice.

10) Higher College – an educational institution that implements integrated modular educational programmes of technical and vocational education and post-secondary education;

11) Individual Study Plan – a study plan developed for each academic year by the student independently, with the assistance of an advisor, on the basis of the standard study plan and the catalogue of elective courses;

12) Professional Competence – the ability of a specialist to perform a range of professional tasks based on knowledge, skills and abilities, as well as personal qualities that enable the effective performance of professional activities;

13) Professional Practice – a type of educational activity aimed at consolidating theoretical knowledge and skills and acquiring and developing practical skills and competencies through the performance of specific types of work related to the student's future professional activities;

14) Applied Bachelor's Degree Programme – post-secondary education, the educational programmes of which are aimed at training specialists with the award of the qualification of *Applied Bachelor*;

15) Competence – the ability of students to apply in practice the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired in the course of education in their professional activities;

16) Module – an independent, self-contained and complete component of an educational programme or a period of study;

17) Modular Education – a method of organising the educational process based on the completion of modular educational programmes;

18) Mentor – a qualified nurse who facilitates the consolidation of theoretical knowledge and practical skills by a student at a clinical training site during clinical and professional/pre-graduation practice;

19) Specialised Courses of the Applied Bachelor's Degree Programme include: the nursing profession in the healthcare system of the Republic of Kazakhstan; mental health and addiction; palliative care and nursing of oncology patients; home nursing care; clinical nursing care for patient safety; nursing care for chronic diseases; nursing care for acute diseases (surgical and perioperative nursing); health promotion; patient education; emergency care; social work in nursing; gerontological nursing; paediatric nursing; nursing in obstetrics and gynaecology; socially significant diseases; principles of planning and conducting research in nursing; improvement of functional abilities; specialised nursing care; infection control in nursing; biostatistics and presentation of research results; electronic healthcare system; nursing management; evidence-based nursing practice; as well as the preparation, formatting and pre-defence of a graduation thesis.

The list of courses varies depending on the duration and basis of admission, i.e. whether the programme is undertaken on the basis of technical and vocational education or general secondary education.

20) Accreditation Standards (Regulations) – documents of the Accreditation Body establishing requirements for the accreditation procedure;

21) Professional (Clinical) Practice at Clinical Training Sites includes: safe patient care and infection control; nursing in medical therapy and surgery; nursing care for patients/clients of different age groups; home nursing care; nursing in primary health care; specialised nursing care; as well as pre-graduation practice entitled "*Development of Nursing Skills in Elective Specialties.*"

According to the WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement of Basic Medical Education (Revision 2015) following definitions related to Standards:

Mission provides the overarching frame to which all other aspects of the educational institution and its programme have to be related.

Mission statement would include general and specific issues relevant to institutional, national, regional and global policy and needs. Mission in this document includes the institutions' vision.

Life-long learning is the professional responsibility to keep up to date in knowledge and skills through appraisal, audit, reflection or recognised continuing professional development (CPD) activities.

Encompassing the health needs of the community would imply interaction with the local community, especially the health and health related sectors, and adjustment of the curriculum to demonstrate attention to and knowledge about health problems of the community.

Institutional autonomy would include appropriate independence from government and other counterparts (regional and local authorities, religious communities, private cooperations, the professions, unions and other interest groups) to be able to make decisions about key areas such as design of curriculum (cf. 2.1 and 2.6), assessments (cf. 3.1), students admission (cf. 4.1 and 4.2), staff recruitment/selection (cf. 5.1) and employment conditions (cf.5.2), research (cf. 6.4) and resource allocation (cf. 8.3).

Academic freedom would include appropriate freedom of expression, freedom of inquiry and publication for staff and students.

Appropriate student conduct would presuppose a written code of conduct.

Principal stakeholders would include the dean, the faculty board/council, the curriculum committee, representatives of staff and students, the university leadership and administration, relevant governmental authorities and regulatory bodies.

Other stakeholders would include representatives of other health professions, patients, the community and public (e.g. users of the health care delivery systems, including patient organisations). Other stakeholders would also include other representatives of academic and administrative staff, education and health care authorities, professional organisations, medical scientific societies and postgraduate medical educators.

Educational outcomes or learning outcomes/competencies refer to statements of knowledge, skills and attitude that students demonstrate at the end of a period of learning. Outcomes might be either intended or acquired. Educational/learning objectives are often described in terms of intended outcomes. Outcomes within nursing to be specified by the nursing colleges- would include documented knowledge and understanding of (a) the basic biomedical sciences, (b) the behavioural and social sciences, including public health and population medicine, (c) medical ethics, human rights and medical jurisprudence relevant to the practice of medicine, (d) the ability to undertake life-long learning and demonstrate professionalism in connection with the different roles of nurses in relation to the healthcare profession.

Social accountability would include willingness and ability to respond to the needs of society, of patients and the health and health related sectors and to contribute to the national and international development of medicine by fostering competencies in health care, medical education and medical research. This would be based on the nursing school's own principles and in respect of the autonomy of universities.

Social accountability is sometimes used synonymously with social responsibility and social responsiveness. In matters outside its control, the medical school would still demonstrate social accountability through advocacy and by explaining relationships and drawing attention to consequences of the policy.

The basic biomedical sciences would - depending on local needs, interests and traditions - include anatomy, biochemistry, biophysics, cell biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology (including bacteriology, parasitology and virology), molecular biology, pathology, pharmacology and physiology.

Behavioural and social sciences would - depending on local needs, interests and traditions - include biostatistics, community medicine, epidemiology, global health, hygiene, medical anthropology, medical psychology, medical sociology, public health and social medicine.

Medical ethics deals with moral issues in medical practice such as values, rights and responsibilities related to physician behavior and decision making.

Medical jurisprudence deals with the laws and other regulations of the health care delivery system, of the profession and medical practice, including the regulations of production and use of pharmaceuticals and medical technologies (devices, instruments, etc.).

The behavioural and social sciences, medical ethics and medical jurisprudence would provide the knowledge, concepts, methods, skills and attitudes necessary for understanding socio-economic, demographic and cultural determinants of causes, distribution and consequences of health problems as well as knowledge about the national health care system and patients' rights. This would enable analysis of health needs of the community and society, effective communication, clinical decision making and ethical practices.

The clinical sciences would - depending on local needs, interests and traditions - include anaesthetics, dermatology, diagnostic radiology, emergency medicine, general practice/family medicine, geriatrics, gynaecology& obstetrics, internal medicine (with subspecialties), laboratory medicine, medical technology, neurology, oncology & radiotherapy, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, oto-rhino-laryngology, paediatrics, palliative care, physiotherapy, rehabilitation medicine, psychiatry, surgery (with subspecialties) and venereology (sexually transmitted diseases). Clinical sciences would also include a final module preparing for pre-registration training.

Clinical skills include history taking, physical examination, communication skills, procedures and investigations, emergency practices, and prescription and treatment practices.

Professional skills would include patient management skills, team-work/team leadership skills and inter-professional training.

Appropriate clinical responsibility would include activities related to health promotion, disease prevention and patient care.

Instructional/ learning methods would encompass lectures, small-group teaching, problem-based or case-based learning, peer assisted learning, practicals, laboratory exercises, bed-side teaching, clinical demonstrations, clinical skills laboratory training, field exercises in the community and web-based instruction.

Principles of equality mean equal treatment of staff and students irrespective of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and taking into account physical capabilities.

Elements of original or advanced research would include obligatory or elective analytic and experimental studies, thereby fostering the ability to participate in the scientific development of medicine as professionals and colleagues.

The authority of the curriculum committee would include authority over specific departmental and subject interests, and the control of the curriculum within existing rules and regulations as defined by the governance structure of the institution and governmental authorities. The curriculum committee would allocate the granted resources for planning and implementing methods of teaching and learning, assessment of students and course evaluation

"Assessment utility" is a term combining validity, reliability, educational impact, acceptability and efficiency of the assessment methods and formats.

Assessment principles, methods and practices refer to assessment of student achievement and would include assessment in all domains: knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Adjustment of number and nature of examinations would include consideration of avoiding negative effects on learning. This would also imply avoiding the need for students to learn and recall excessive amounts of information and curriculum overload.

Encouragement of integrated learning would include consideration of using integrated assessment, while ensuring reasonable tests of knowledge of individual disciplines or subject areas.

The statement on process of selection of students would include both rationale and methods of selection such as secondary school results, other relevant academic or educational experiences, entrance examinations and interviews, including evaluation of motivation to become doctors. Selection would also take into account the need for variations related to diversity of medical practice.

Policy and practice for admission of disabled students will have to be in accordance with national law and regulations.

Periodically review the admission policy would be based on relevant societal and professional data, to comply with the health needs of the community and society, and would include consideration of intake according to gender, ethnicity and other social requirements (socio-cultural and linguistic characteristics of the population), including the potential need of a special recruitment, admission and induction policy for underprivileged students and minorities.

Academic counselling would include questions related to choice of electives, residence preparation and career guidance. Organisation of the counselling would include appointing academic mentors for individual students or small groups of students.

Addressing social, financial and personal needs would mean professional support in relation to social and personal problems and events, health problems and financial matters, and would include access to health clinics, immunization programmes and health/disability insurance as well as financial aid services in forms of bursaries, scholarships and loans.

Student representation would include student self governance and representation on the curriculum committee, other educational committees, scientific and other relevant bodies as well as social activities and local health care projects (cf. B 2.7.2).

Physical facilities would include lecture halls, class, group and tutorial rooms, teaching and research laboratories, clinical skills laboratories, offices, libraries, information technology facilities and student amenities such as adequate study space, lounges, transportation facilities, catering, student housing, on-call accommodation, personal storage lockers, sports and recreational facilities.

A safe learning environment would include provision of necessary information and protection from harmful substances, specimens and organisms, laboratory safety regulations and safety equipment.

Clinical training facilities would include hospitals (adequate mix of primary, secondary and tertiary), sufficient patient wards and diagnostic departments, laboratories, ambulatory services (including primary care), clinics, primary health care settings, health care centres and other community health care settings as well as skills laboratories, allowing clinical training to be organised using an appropriate mix of clinical settings and rotations throughout all main disciplines.

Evaluate would include evaluation of appropriateness and quality for medical training programmes in terms of settings, equipment and number and categories of patients, as well as health practices, supervision and administration.

Effective and ethical use of information and communication technology would include use of computers, cell/mobile telephones, internal and external networks and other means as well as coordination with library services. The policy would include common access to all educational items through a learning management system. Information and communication technology would be useful for preparing students for evidence-based medicine and life-long learning through continuing professional development (CPD).

Medical research and scholarship encompass scientific research in basic biomedical, clinical, behavioural and social sciences. Medical scholarship means the academic attainment of advanced medical knowledge and inquiry. The medical research basis of the curriculum would be ensured by research activities within the medical school itself or its affiliated institutions and/or by the scholarship and

scientific competencies of the teaching staff. Influences on current teaching would facilitate learning of scientific methods and evidence-based medicine.

To facilitate student activities would include consideration of providing technical and financial support to student organisations.

Educational expertise would deal with processes, practice and problems of medical education and would include medical doctors with research experience in medical education, educational psychologists and sociologists. It can be provided by an education development unit or a team of interested and experienced teachers at the institution or be acquired from another national or international institution.

A policy for transfer of educational credits would imply consideration of limits to the proportion of the study programme which can be transferred from other institutions. Transfer of educational credits would be facilitated by establishing agreements on mutual recognition of educational elements and through active programme coordination between medical schools. It would also be facilitated by use of a transparent system of credit units and by flexible interpretation of course requirements.

Programme monitoring would imply the routine collection of data about key aspects of the curriculum for the purpose of ensuring that the educational process is on track and for identifying any areas in need of intervention. The collection of data is often part of the administrative procedures in connection with admission of students, assessment and graduation.

Programme evaluation is the process of systematic gathering of information to judge the effectiveness and adequacy of the institution and its programme. It would imply the use of reliable and valid methods of data collection and analysis for the purpose of demonstrating the qualities of the educational programme or core aspects of the programme in relation to the mission and the curriculum, including the intended educational outcomes. Involvement of external reviewers from other institutions and experts in medical education would further broaden the base of experience for quality improvement of medical education at the institution.

Governance means the act and/or the structure of governing the medical school. Governance is primarily concerned with policy making, the processes of establishing general institutional and programme policies and also with control of the implementation of the policies. The institutional and programme policies would normally encompass decisions on the mission of the medical school, the curriculum, admission policy, staff recruitment and selection policy and decisions on interaction and linkage with medical practice and the health sector as well as other external relations.

Academic leadership refers to the positions and persons within the governance and management structures being responsible for decisions on academic matters in teaching, research and service and would include dean, deputy dean, vice deans, provost, heads of departments, course leaders, directors of research institutes and centres as well as chairs of standing committees (e.g. for student selection, curriculum planning and student counselling).

Management means the act and/or the structure concerned primarily with the implementation of the institutional and programme policies including the economic and organisational implications i.e. the actual allocation and use of resources within the medical school. Implementation of the institutional and programme policies would involve carrying into effect the policies and plans regarding mission, the curriculum, admission, staff recruitment and external relations.

4. Abbreviation

The following abbreviations are used in the Standards:

AC	Accreditation Council
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
EB	Expert Board

ECAQA	the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Healthcare
EEC	External Expert Commission
ESG	Standards for accreditation the Higher Education Institutions for Health Professions Education based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area
EFN	European Federation of Nursing Associations
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
MoH	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan
RK	
MoEDSc	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan
WFME	World Federation for Medical Education
WHO	World Health Organization

5. General Provision

5.1 Standards for accreditation of Applied Bachelor Degree Programme in Nursing includes:

1. MISSIONS AND OUTCOMES;
2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME;
3. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS;
4. STUDENTS;
5. ACADEMIC STAFF/FACULTY;
6. EDUCATIONAL RECOURSES;
7. PROGRAMME EVALUATION;
8. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION;
9. CONTINUOUS RENEWAL.

5.2 Standards for programme accreditation developed and based on the WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement in Basic Medical Education (Revision 2015) with national specifications of the healthcare system and health professions education. Standards based on the WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement of Basic Medical Education (Revision 2015), and Standards for accreditation the Higher Education Institutions for Health Professions Education based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015).

A total of **89** standards, of which Basic standards are **59** and Quality improvement standards are **30**.

5.3. Standards are specified for each sub-area using two levels of attainment:

- **Basic Standards** are expressed by a “**must**”, this means that the standard in principle must be met by every nursing school and fulfillment demonstrated during evaluation of the school.
- **Standards for Quality Development** are expressed by a “**should**”, this means that the standard is in accordance with international consensus about best practice for nursing colleges and nursing education. Fulfillment of - or initiatives to fulfill – some or all of such standards should be documented by nursing colleges.

Basic standards: at least 80% must demonstrate full compliance (**fulfilled**) and no more than 20% can be partially complied (**partially fulfilled**). Quality improvement standards: at least 60% must demonstrate full compliance and no more than 40% may be partially complied. If these requirements are satisfied, the educational organizations/educational programme may be recommended for full accreditation for a period of 5 years. In case of non-compliance (**not fulfilled**) with the above requirements by the educational organization, the EEC has the right to

make recommendations: conditionally accredit, not accredit (non-compliance with one or more accreditation standards is detected).

5.4 The decision on accreditation is awarded by ECAQA's Accreditation Council according to the External Evaluation Report of the EEC containing recommendations regarding the decision on accreditation and including the evidence about the nursing colleges meets certain predefined Standards.

5.5 Amendments have been made to the Standard in accordance with Order No. KP ДCM-63 of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, dated July 4, 2022, "On the Approval of Mandatory State Standards for Levels of Education in the Field of Health Care." Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on July 5, 2022, under No. 28716

5.6 The ECAQA's Accreditation Council includes all main groups of stakeholders and based on recommendations of the WHO/WFME Guidelines for Accreditation of Basic Medical Education. The Members of the Accreditation Council are represented by the Directors of Departments of the MoED.Sci. RK and MoH RK, Members of Kazakhstan Parliament, Senior Academic Staff of the HEIs for Health Professions Education, National Research Centres, Societies of the Employers, International and National Professional Association, Students.

6. Purpose of introduction of Standards for Programme accreditation

6. The main purposes for implementation of the programme accreditation are following:

6.1.1 to implement internal quality assurance within institution and develop the national external quality assurance system that harmonized with principles of good international practice for quality assurance in education;

6.1.2 to support and encourage the development of a quality culture that is embraced by students, academic staff/faculty, institutional leadership and management.

6.1.3 to evaluate the educational programmes in nursing to ensure that nursing college meets certain predefined standards.

6.1.4 to promote the quality improvement of health professions education to meet the needs of the changing environment and achieve competitiveness of the national system of professional education;

6.1.5 to publish and provide reliable information for society and authorities concerned in nursing education and regarding the nursing college external evaluation outcomes and submit the summary report and formal decision on accreditation.

7. Principles of Quality Assurance and Accreditation

7.1 Quality assurance and accreditation system based on the following principles:

7.1.1 Voluntariness/Freedom – the accreditation is voluntary process and accrediting agency recognizes the freedom and autonomy of the HEIs and their programmes.

7.1.2 Responsibility –the accreditation process clear defines the responsibility of both accrediting agency and higher education institution; accrediting agency has strong relationship with main stakeholders: the Public, HEIs, Students, the Professions, Professional Organizations, Government; provides the Standards and Guidelines, appropriate resources of innovation and training reviewers/experts.

7.1.3 Transparency – internal and external evaluation are carried out fairly and transparently providing access to relevant information regarding the accreditation process and procedures, accreditation standards, guidelines for self-study, guidelines for external evaluation that are available for all stakeholders.

7.1.4 Independence - external evaluation, decision making process based on the published standards and procedures taking into consideration the outcomes both the institutional self-study and external review, the reliable information and data,

accrediting agency is independent of the third parties (MoH, MoEDSci., HEI's Leadership and Public).

7.1.5 Confidentiality – institutional self-study report' information and other information provided by HEIs and data gained in external review are confidential.

7.1.6 Efficiency – external evaluation focus on content and outcomes that allowed improving internal quality assurance mechanisms, support the development of a quality culture and ensure the link between internal and external quality assurance.

7.1.7 Public information- the decisions on accreditation must be announced and made public, publication of the reports providing the basis for the decisions, or a summary of the reports, should also be considered and posted on the accrediting agency's web-site.

8. General steps and main elements in accreditation process

8.1 Accreditation process includes the following main elements:

8.1.1 Submission of the application and the summary and education database of the nursing college to the accrediting agency;

8.1.2 Signing the Agreement between nursing college and accrediting agency that included terms of payment and conditions for performance, training of staff/faculty on conducting the institutional self-study;

8.1.3 Planning and conducting the Educational Programme self-evaluation; submitting Educational Programme Self-evaluation Report (in Kazakh, Russian and English) to the accrediting agency;

8.1.4 Consideration the Educational Programme Self-evaluation Report by the Members of EEC's accrediting agency before the site-visit at the nursing college;

8.1.5 The external expert commission carries out the external evaluation and develops the draft of the Report and conclusions that is presented to the administrative and academic staff.

8.1.6 Submission of the final External Evaluation Report with recommendations for improvement to the accrediting agency and the Accreditation Council;

8.1.7 Decision on accreditation consideration of the final Report and recommendations of the external expert commission by Accreditation Council

8.1.8 Publication of a summary of the External Evaluation Report and decision on accreditation and post them on accrediting agency's web-site.

8.1.9 subsequent procedures to verify the elimination of deficiencies identified by the medical college based on the recommendations contained in the EEC report;

8.2 The specialised accreditation procedure shall be carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education" dated 27 July 2007 No. 319-III (as amended and supplemented as of 1 June 2023), at the expense of the medical college and upon its application;

8.3 During the self-assessment of the educational programme, the Accreditation agency shall provide consultations to the medical college and, subject to prior agreement, conduct training for the group of college staff responsible for accreditation and other stakeholders;

8.4 Upon completion of the self-assessment procedure for the educational programme, the medical college shall submit to the Accreditation agency, no later than two months prior to the scheduled visit of the EEC, two copies of the educational programme self-assessment report in two languages (the state and Russian languages). All copies of the reports shall be signed by the Head of the medical college;

8.5 The reports shall be thoroughly reviewed by all members of the expert group prior to the visit to the medical college. The reviews of the reports shall be provided to the medical college for the implementation of corrective measures. Upon completion of such measures, the EEC shall conduct an on-site visit to assess the reliability of the results of the specialised self-assessment;

8.6 The dates of the EEC site visit to the medical college shall be determined by the Accreditation agency. In the case of specialised accreditation, the visit shall last 2–3 days;

8.7 The EEC shall be composed from the database of experts nominated and certified by the Accreditation Body, as well as experts recommended by educational institutions, professional associations and the employer community;

8.8 The procedure governing the work of the EEC at the medical college shall be carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for external evaluation during the visit to the medical college, approved by the Accreditation agency;

8.9 The final report on the results of the external evaluation of the educational programme shall be submitted by the experts to the Accreditation Body no later than 14 calendar days after completion of the EEC site visit. The final report shall include an assessment of compliance with the Standard Rules for the Activities of Organisations of Higher and Postgraduate Education, the State Compulsory Educational Standards (SCES), and the accreditation standards, as well as recommendations for improving the activities of the educational institution and its educational programme.

Following this, the Accreditation agency shall send the report, together with the recommendations, to the educational institution for review and correction of factual errors. The educational institution shall be given 7 (seven) calendar days for this purpose. Thereafter, the report shall be submitted to the Accreditation agency and the EEC members for preparation of the final version of the report within 7 (seven) calendar days.

The final EEC report shall be submitted to the Accreditation Council two weeks prior to its meeting.

The final EEC report and the EEC recommendations shall serve as the basis for developing a corrective action plan addressing the EEC recommendations during the post-accreditation monitoring period.

8.10 The Accreditation Council shall make its decision on the basis of the self-assessment report of the educational programme, the final report of the External Expert Commission, and the recommendations of the Accreditation agency, based on an analysis of the above-mentioned documents. The report of the External Expert Commission and the recommendations of the Accreditation agency shall constitute mandatory prerequisites for the decision-making by the Accreditation Council.

9. Decision on accreditation

9.1 Decisions on accreditation based on the fulfillment or lack of fulfillment of the Standards.

Categories of accreditation decisions:

- 1) Full accreditation- the duration of full accreditation is 5 years;
- 2) Conditional accreditation- will be reviewed after 1 year to check fulfillment of the conditions;
- 3) Denial or
- 4) withdrawal of accreditation.

9.2 Full accreditation for the maximum period must be conferred if all Standards are fulfilled.

9.3 A decision to grant conditional accreditation for a period of 1 (one) year, subject to a repeat external evaluation by the same accrediting agency, is made if most of the standards have been partially met or if at least one of the 9 standards has not been met, and the severity of the issues is reflected in the final report of the External Evaluation Commission (EEC) and in the rationale for the decision on conditional accreditation. In this case, the educational institution must, within one year following the date of the decision, implement corrective measures based on the recommendations (remarks) of the EEC, prepare a self-assessment report on the educational programme under the new Accreditation Contract, and submit the self-

assessment report to the accrediting body that made the decision on conditional accreditation in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 8.4 of these accreditation standards. The terms and conditions for the accreditation of the educational programme are specified in the newly drafted and concluded Accreditation Contract.

9.4 Denial or withdrawal of accreditation must be the decision, if many Standards are not fulfilled, signifying severe deficiency in the quality of the programme that cannot be remedied within a few years.

9.5 A decision to withdraw the accreditation certificate for an educational programme during its validity period shall be made in the following cases:

9.5.1 suspension by the authorised body in the field of education of the licence for the educational programme and/or the licence for educational activities of the medical educational institution;

9.5.2 withdrawal by the authorised body in the field of education of the general licence for educational activities of the medical educational institution;

9.5.3 systematic violations of the anti-corruption policy by the educational institution in relation to its employees, teaching staff and students, supported by documentary evidence and the official disclosure of such facts by the relevant authorised and supervisory bodies.

9.6 The decision to withdraw the accreditation certificate for an educational programme shall be formalised in the minutes of the Accreditation Council and officially communicated by letter to the Head of the educational institution, followed by written notification to the authorised body in the field of education.

9.7 The decision to withdraw the accreditation certificate for an educational programme shall result in the exclusion of the educational institution from Register 3 of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (ME RK). This may result in the annulment of all accreditation outcomes previously achieved and shall entail the requirement to undergo all stages of the accreditation process again.

9.8 Upon adoption of a positive decision on the accreditation of an educational programme, the Accreditation Body shall send the educational institution an official letter communicating the decision of the Accreditation Council, together with the original accreditation certificate valid for a period of 5 (five) years.

9.9 The decision on the accreditation of the educational programme shall be published in the Register of the Accreditation agency.

9.10 In the event that a decision on conditional accreditation is made, the educational institution shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Accreditation Council in accordance with the appeal procedure established by the Accreditation agency.

9.11 The educational programme shall undergo re-accreditation upon completion of the established accreditation period in order to confirm its accredited status. The educational institution shall submit an application to the Accreditation agency 12 (twelve) months prior to the expiry of the accreditation certificate for the educational programme.

10. Follow up activities

10.1 Accredited nursing college are monitored by the accrediting agency throughout the duration of the accreditation term.

10.2 The nursing college should submit the brief progress report annually to shed light on how the institution has addressed the recommendations for improvement that made by the External Evaluation Commission.

10.3 Postaccreditation monitoring of the educational programme shall be carried out through:

10.3.1 submission to the Accreditation agency of an action plan for improving

the educational programme based on the recommendations of the External Expert Commission (EEC) for the validity period of the accreditation certificate. The action plan shall be submitted within 30 (thirty) calendar days after the educational institution receives a positive decision on the accreditation of the educational programme;

10.3.2 timely submission of annual reports on the implementation of the improvement plan based on the recommendations of the EEC, accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence of implementation (high-quality copies and/or electronic versions of the relevant documents). The report shall be submitted to the Accreditation agency without any additional notification or formal request from the Accreditation agency. The indicative date for submission of each subsequent report shall be the calendar date on which the accreditation certificate for the educational programme was issued.

10.4 The educational institution shall inform the Accreditation agency of any significant changes to the accredited educational programme that occur during the post-accreditation monitoring period.

10.5 The Accreditation agency shall have the right to send a commission of experts to the educational institution to review complaints received concerning the quality of education and/or the improper implementation of the accredited educational programme.

10.6 The Accreditation agency shall have the right to suspend the validity of the accreditation certificate for the educational programme if the educational institution fails to comply with the requirements set forth in Clauses 10.3 and 10.4 of these Standards. In such a case, the decision to suspend the validity of the accreditation certificate for the educational programme shall remain in effect until the violations of the post-accreditation monitoring requirements have been remedied. The decision shall be formalised by an order of the Director General of the Accreditation agency, and a notification letter shall be sent to the educational institution.

11. Development and revision of the accreditation standards

11.1 Amendments for accreditation standard are addressed for its further improvement.

11.2 Amendments to accreditation standard are proposed by the accrediting agency.

11.3 In case of amendments' initiation to the standard by main stakeholders, they address their suggestions and remarks to the accreditation agency.

11.4 Accrediting agency consider all suggestions and remarks related to accreditation standards for their validity and appropriateness.

11.5 Revised Standards adopted by the accrediting agency, approved by the Experts Board and signed by Director General will be issued as a new version of Standards and published on its web-site.

12. STANDARDS FOR PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION NURSING EDUCATION

Standard 1. MISSION AND OUTCOMES

1.1 Mission

1.1.1 The nursing college **must** state its educational programme's mission and make it known to its constituency and the health sector it serves.

The mission statement and vision are compatible with the vision and mission of the nursing college.

1.1.2 The nursing college **must** in educational programme's mission outline the aims and the educational strategy resulting in a nurse

- competent at an initial education level;

- with an appropriate foundation for future career;
- capable of undertaking the roles of nurses as defined by the health sector;
- prepared and ready for postgraduate nursing education;
- committed to life-long learning.

1.1.3 The nursing college **must** consider that the mission encompasses the health needs of the community, the needs of the health care delivery system and other aspects of social accountability.

1.1.4 The nursing college **should** ensure that the nursing education programme's mission, goals, and expected student outcomes are reviewed periodically and revised, as appropriate, to reflect:

- professional nursing standards and guidelines;
- and the needs and expectations of the community of interest.

1.1.5 The nursing college **should** demonstrate ongoing commitment and support for the nursing program. The nursing college makes available resources to enable the program to achieve its mission, goals, and expected aggregate student and faculty outcomes. The faculty, as a resource of the program, enables the achievement of the mission, goals, and expected aggregate student outcomes.

1.2 Institutional Autonomy and Academic Freedom

1.2.1 The nursing college **must** have institutional autonomy to formulate and implement policies for which its faculty/academic staff and administration are responsible, especially regarding design of the curriculum and use of the allocated resources necessary for implementation of the curriculum.

1.2.2 The nursing college **should** ensure academic freedom for its staff and students in addressing the actual curriculum and in exploring the use of new research results to illustrate specific subjects without expanding the curriculum.

1.3 Educational Outcomes

1.3.1 The nursing college **must** define the intended educational outcomes that students should exhibit upon graduation in relation to:

- their achievements at an initial education level regarding knowledge, skills, and attitudes;
- appropriate foundation for future career in any branch of medicine;
- their future roles in the health sector;
- their subsequent postgraduate training;
- their commitment to and skills in life-long learning;
- the health needs of the community, the needs of the health care delivery system and other aspects of social accountability.

1.3.2 The nursing college **must** ensure appropriate student conduct with respect to fellow students, faculty members, other health care personnel, patients and their relatives.

1.3.3 The nursing college **must** make the intended educational outcomes publicly known.

1.3.4 The nursing college **should**

- specify and co-ordinate the linkage of acquired outcomes by graduation with acquired outcomes in postgraduate training;
- specify intended outcomes of student engagement in medical research;
- draw attention to global health related intended outcomes.

1.3.5 The higher education institution's programmes **should** be designed so that they meet the objectives set for them, including the intended learning outcomes. (ESG 1.2)

1.4 Participation in Formulation of Mission and Outcomes

1.4.1 The nursing college **must** ensure that its principal stakeholders participate in formulating the mission and intended educational outcomes.

1.4.2 The nursing college **should** ensure that the formulation of its mission and intended educational outcomes is based also on input from other stakeholders.

Standard 2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

2.1 Framework of the Educational Programme

2.1.1 The nursing college **must**

- define the overall curriculum;
- use a curriculum and instructional/learning methods that stimulate, prepare and support students to take responsibility for their learning process;
- ensure that the curriculum is delivered in accordance with principles of equality;

ensure that the educational programme design in correspondence with the MoH RK State Compulsory Standards for Education and Programmes of Medical and Pharmaceutical Education” including Applied Bachelor Degree Programme in Nursing.

2.1.2 The nursing college **should** ensure that the curriculum nursing practice contribute to achievement of the basic and professional competencies and prepare the students for life-long learning.

2.1.3 The nursing college ensures that learning and teaching **should** be student-centred with students encouraged and supported in taking responsibility for self-directed learning in order to encourage a culture of life-long learning

2.1.4 The nursing college **should** ensure that the educational programme has a clearly formulated set of learning outcomes, conducive to the development of competences in nursing and which are responsive to changing environment, health needs and demands of populations.

2.1.5 The nursing college **should** ensure that overall educational programme and nursing major curriculum expose students to concepts and experiences necessary for success in the workplace, further education and life-long learning.

2.1.6 The qualification resulting from a programme **should** be clearly specified and communicated, and refer to the correct level of the national qualifications framework for higher education and, consequently, to the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. (ESG 1.2)

2.1.7 The nursing college’s programmes **should** provide students with both academic knowledge and skills including those that are transferable, which may influence their personal development and may be applied in their future careers. (ESG G 1.2)

2.1.8 The nursing college’s programme **should be**

- designed with overall programme objectives that are in line with the institutional strategy and have explicit intended learning outcomes;
- designed by involving students and other stakeholders in the work;
- benefit from external expertise and reference points;
- designed so that they enable smooth student progression;
- defined the expected student workload, e.g. in ECTS;
- included well-structured placement opportunities where appropriate; and it is subject to a formal institutional approval process. (ESG G 1.2)

2.2 Scientific Method

2.2.1 The nursing college **must throughout the curriculum teach**

- the principles of scientific method, including analytical and critical thinking;
- medical research methods and biostatistics;
- evidence-based medicine;
- evidence-based nursing.

2.2.3 The nursing college **should** in the curriculum include elements of original or advanced research.

2.3 Basic Biomedical Sciences

2.3.1 The nursing college **must** in the curriculum identify and incorporate the contributions of the basic biomedical sciences concepts and methods fundamental to acquiring and applying clinical sciences.

2.3.2 The nursing college **should** in the curriculum adjust and modify the contributions of the biomedical sciences to the

- scientific, technological and clinical developments;
- current and anticipated needs of the society and the health care system.

2.4 Behavioural and Social Sciences, Medical Ethics and Jurisprudence

2.4.1 The nursing college **must** in the curriculum identify and incorporate the contributions of the: behavioural sciences, social sciences, medical ethics, medical jurisprudence, changing demographic and cultural contexts.

2.4.2 The nursing college **should** in the curriculum adjust and modify the contributions of the behavioural and social sciences as well as medical ethics and medical jurisprudence to

- scientific, technological and clinical developments;
- current and anticipated needs of the society and the health care system;
- changing demographics and cultural contexts.

2.5 Clinical Sciences and Skills

2.5.1 The nursing college **must** in the curriculum identify and incorporate the contributions of the clinical sciences to ensure that students

- acquire sufficient knowledge and clinical and professional skills to assume appropriate responsibility after graduation;
- spend a reasonable part of the programme in planned contact with patients in relevant clinical settings;
- experience health promotion and preventive medicine;
- specify the amount of time spent in training in major clinical disciplines;
- experience evidence-based nursing practice.

2.5.2 The nursing college clinical training and clinical practice with appropriate attention to patient safety.

2.5.3 The nursing college **should** in the curriculum adjust and modify the contributions of the clinical sciences to the

- scientific, technological and clinical developments;
- current and anticipated needs of the society and the health care system.

2.5.4 The higher education institution **should** ensure that every student has early patient contact gradually including participation in patient care.

2.5.5 The nursing college **should** structure the different components of clinical skills training according to the stage of the study programme.

2.6 Educational Programme Structure, Composition and Duration

2.6.1 The nursing college **must** describe the content, extent and sequencing of courses and other curricular elements to ensure appropriate coordination between different subjects.

2.6.2 The nursing college **should** in the curriculum ensure horizontal integration of associated sciences, disciplines and subjects and allow optional (elective) content and define the balance between the core and optional content as part of the educational programme.

2.7 Programme Management

2.7.1 The nursing college **must** have a curriculum committee, which under the governance of the academic leadership (the dean) has the responsibility and authority for planning and implementing the curriculum to secure its intended educational outcomes and in its curriculum committee ensure representation of staff and students.

2.7.2 The nursing college **should** through its curriculum committee plan and implement innovations in the curriculum and in its curriculum committee include representatives of other stakeholders.

2.7.3 The higher education institution **should** have processes for the design and approval of their programmes. (ESG 1.2)

2.8 Linkage with medical practice and the health sector

2.8.1 The nursing college **must** ensure operational linkage between the educational programme and the subsequent stages of education or practice after graduation.

2.8.2 The nursing college **should** ensure that the curriculum committee

- seeks input from the environment in which graduates will be expected to work, and modifies the programme accordingly;
- considers programme modification in response to opinions in the community and society.

Standard 3. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS

3.1 Assessment methods

3.1.1 The nursing college **must**

- define, state and publish the principles, methods and practices used for assessment of its students, including the criteria for setting pass marks, grade boundaries and number of allowed retakes;
- ensure that assessments cover knowledge, skills and attitudes;
- use a wide range of assessment methods and formats according to their “assessment utility”;
- ensure that methods and results of assessments avoid conflicts of interest;
- ensure that assessments are open to scrutiny by external expertise;
- use a system of appeal of assessment results.

3.1.2 The nursing college **should** evaluate and document the reliability and validity of assessment methods, incorporate new assessment methods where appropriate and encourage the use of external examiners.

3.2 Relation between Assessment and Learning

3.2.1 The nursing college **must** use assessment principles, methods and practices that

- are clearly compatible with intended educational outcomes and instructional methods;
- ensure that the intended educational outcomes are met by the students;
- promote student learning;
- provide an appropriate balance of formative and summative assessment to
- guide both learning and decisions about academic progress.

3.2.2 The nursing college **should**

- adjust the number and nature of examinations of curricular elements to encourage both acquisition of the knowledge base and integrated learning;
- ensure timely, specific, constructive and fair feedback to students on basis of assessment results.

Standard 4. STUDENTS

4.1 Admission policy and selection

4.1.1 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement an admission policy based on principles of objectivity, including a clear statement on the process of selection of students.

4.1.2 The nursing college **must** have a policy and implement a practice for admission of disabled students.

4.1.3 The nursing college **must** have a policy and implement a practice for transfer of students from other national or international programmes and institutions.

4.1.4 The nursing college **should** state the relationship between selection and the mission of the school, the educational programme and desired qualities of graduates.

4.1.5 The nursing college **should** periodically review the admission policy and use a system for appeal of admission decisions.

4.2 Student intake

4.2.1 The nursing college **must** define the size of student intake and relate it to its capacity at all stages of the programme.

4.2.2 The nursing college **should** periodically review the size and nature of student intake in consultation with other stakeholders and regulate it to meet the health needs of the community and society.

4.3 Student Counselling and Support

4.3.1 The nursing college **must** have a system for academic counselling of its student population.

4.3.2 The nursing college **must** offer a programme of student support, addressing social, financial and personal needs.

4.3.3 The nursing college **must** allocate resources for student support and ensure confidentiality in relation to counselling and support.

4.3.4 The nursing college **should** provide academic counselling that is based on monitoring of student progress and includes career guidance and planning.

4.3.5 The nursing college **should** provide to students the documentation explaining the qualification gained, including achieved learning outcomes and the context, level, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed. (ESG G 1.4)

4.4 Student Representation

4.4.1 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement a policy on student representation and appropriate participation:

- in mission statement;
- design of the programme;
- management of the programme;
- evaluation of the programme and other matters relevant to students.

4.4.2 The nursing college **should** encourage and facilitate student activities and student organisations.

Standard 5. ACADEMIC STAFF/FACULTY

5.1 Recruitment and Selection Policy

5.1.1 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement a staff recruitment and selection policy which

- outline the type, responsibilities and balance of the academic staff/faculty of the basic biomedical sciences, the behavioural and social sciences and the clinical sciences required to deliver the curriculum adequately, including the balance between medical and non-medical academic staff, the balance between full-time and part-time academic staff, and the balance between academic and non-academic staff;
- address criteria for scientific, educational and clinical merit, including the balance between teaching, research and service functions;
- specify and monitor the responsibilities of its academic staff/faculty of the basic biomedical sciences, the behavioural and social sciences and the clinical sciences.

5.1.2 The nursing college **should** in its policy for staff recruitment and selection take into account criteria such as relationship to its mission, including significant local issues and economic considerations.

5.2 Staff activity and staff development

5.2.1 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement a staff activity and development policy which

- allow a balance of capacity between teaching, research and service functions;
- ensure recognition of meritorious academic activities, with appropriate emphasis on teaching, research and service qualifications;
- ensure that clinical service functions and research are used in teaching and learning;
- ensure sufficient knowledge by individual staff members of the total curriculum;

- include teacher training, development, support and appraisal.
- 5.2.2 The nursing college **should** take into account teacher-student ratios relevant to the various curricular components.
- 5.2.3 The nursing college **should** design and implement a staff promotion policy.

Standard 6. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

6.1 Physical Facilities

- 6.1.1 The nursing college **must** have sufficient physical facilities for staff and students to ensure that the curriculum can be delivered adequately.
- 6.1.2 The nursing college **must** ensure a learning environment, which is safe for staff, students, patients and their relatives.
- 6.1.3 The nursing college **should** improve the learning environment by regularly updating and modifying or extending the physical facilities to match developments in educational practices.
- 6.1.4 The nursing college should ensure that the material and technical support of the educational process corresponds to the standards for equipping the preclinical simulation centre of nursing colleges approved by the authorized body in the field of public health and nursing education.

6.2 Clinical training resources

- 6.2.1 The nursing college **must** ensure necessary resources for giving the students adequate clinical experience, including sufficient number and categories of patients, clinical training facilities and supervision of their clinical practice.
- 6.2.2 The nursing college **should** evaluate, adapt and improve the facilities for clinical training to meet the needs of the population it serves.

6.3 Information Technology

- 6.3.1 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement a policy which addresses effective and ethical use and evaluation of appropriate information and communication technology.
- 6.3.2 The nursing college **must** ensure access to web-based or other electronic media.
- 6.3.3 The nursing college **should** enable teachers and students to use existing and exploit appropriate new information and communication technology for
- independent learning;
 - accessing information;
 - managing patients;
 - working in health care delivery systems;
 - optimise student access to relevant patient data and health care information systems.

6.4 Research and Scholarship

- 6.4.1 The nursing college **must** use research and scholarship as a basis for the educational curriculum.
- 6.4.2 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement a policy that fosters the relationship between research and education.
- 6.4.3 The nursing college **must** describe the research facilities and priorities at the institution.
- 6.4.4 The nursing college **should** ensure that interaction between research and education
- influences current teaching;
 - encourages and prepares students to engage in research and development.

6.5 Educational Expertise

- 6.5.1 The nursing college **must** have access to educational expertise where required.
- 6.5.2 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement a policy on the use of educational expertise in curriculum development and development of teaching and assessment methods.
- 6.5.3 The nursing college **should** demonstrate evidence of the use of in-house or external educational expertise in staff development.

6.5.4 The nursing college **should** pay attention to current expertise in educational evaluation and in research in the discipline of medical education.

6.5.5 The nursing college **should** allow staff to pursue educational research interest.

6.6 Educational Exchanges

6.6.1 The nursing college **must** formulate and implement a policy for

- national and international collaboration with other educational institutions, including staff and student mobility;
- transfer of educational credits.

6.6.2 The nursing college **should** facilitate regional and international exchange of staff and students by providing appropriate resources.

6.6.3 The nursing college **should** ensure that exchange is purposefully organised, taking into account the needs of staff and students, and respecting ethical principles.

Standard 7. PROGRAMME EVALUATION

7.1 Mechanisms for programme monitoring and evaluation

7.1.1 The nursing college **must** have a programme of routine curriculum monitoring of processes and outcomes.

7.1.2 The nursing college **must** establish and apply a mechanism for programme evaluation that

- addresses the curriculum and its main components;
- addresses student progress;
- identifies and addresses concerns.

7.1.3 The nursing college **must** ensure that relevant results of evaluation influence the curriculum.

7.1.4 The nursing college **should** periodically evaluate the programme by comprehensively addressing

- the context of the educational process;
- the specific components of the curriculum;
- the long-term acquired outcomes;
- its social accountability.

7.1.5 The nursing college **should** ensure that they collect, analyse and use relevant information for the effective management of the programme and other activities. (ESG S1.7)

7.2 Teacher and Student Feedback

7.2.1 The nursing college **must** systematically seek, analyse and respond to teacher and student feedback.

7.2.2 The nursing college **should** use feedback results for programme development.

7.3 Performance of Students and Graduates

7.3.1 The nursing college **must** analyse performance of cohorts of students and graduates in relation to mission and intended educational outcomes, curriculum and provision of resources.

7.3.2 The nursing college **should** analyse performance of cohorts of students and graduates in relation to student background and conditions, entrance qualifications.

7.3.3 The nursing college **should** use the analysis of student performance to provide feedback to the committees responsible for student selection, curriculum planning and student counselling.

7.4 Involvement of Stakeholders

7.4.1 The nursing college **must** in its programme monitoring and evaluation activities involve its principal stakeholders.

7.4.2 The nursing college **should** for other stakeholders

- allow access to results of course and programme evaluation;
- seek their feedback on the performance of graduates;
- seek their feedback on the curriculum.

Standard 8. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Governance

8.1.1 The nursing college **must** define its governance structures and functions including their relationships within the university.

8.1.2 The nursing college **should** in its governance structures set out the committee structure, and reflect representation from principal stakeholders and other stakeholders.

8.1.3 The nursing college **should** ensure transparency of the work of governance and its decisions.

8.2 Academic Leadership

8.2.1 The nursing college **must** describe the responsibilities of its academic leadership for definition and management of the medical educational programme.

8.2.2 The nursing college **should** periodically evaluate its academic leadership in relation to achievement of its mission and intended educational outcomes.

8.3 Educational budget and resource allocation

8.3.1 The nursing college **must** have a clear line of responsibility and authority for resourcing the curriculum, including a dedicated educational budget.

8.3.2 The nursing college **must** allocate the resources necessary for the implementation of the curriculum and distribute the educational resources in relation to educational needs.

8.3.3 The nursing college **should** have autonomy to direct resources, including teaching staff remuneration, in an appropriate manner in order to achieve its intended educational outcomes.

8.3.4 The nursing college **should** in distribution of resources take into account the developments in medical sciences and the health needs of the society.

8.4 Administration and Management

8.4.1 The nursing college **must** have an administrative and professional staff that is appropriate to support implementation of its educational programme and related activities and ensure good management and resource deployment.

8.4.2 The nursing college **should** formulate and implement an internal programme for quality assurance of the management including regular review.

8.4.3 The nursing college **should** have a policy for quality assurance that is made public and forms part of their strategic management. (ESG S1.1)

8.4.4 Internal stakeholders **should** develop and implement the policy for quality assurance through appropriate structures and processes, while involving external stakeholders. (ESG S1.1)

8.4.5 The nursing college's Quality assurance policies **should** reflect the relationship between research and learning & teaching and take account of both the national context in which the institution operates, the institutional context and its strategic approach. (ESG G1.1)

8.4.6 The higher education institution's Quality assurance policy **should** support:

- the organisation of the quality assurance system;
- departments, schools, faculties and other organisational units as well as those of institutional leadership, individual staff members and students to take on their responsibilities in quality assurance;
- academic integrity and freedom and are vigilant against academic fraud;
- guarding against intolerance of any kind or discrimination against the students or staff;
- the involvement of external stakeholders in quality assurance. (ESG G1.1)

8.4.7 The nursing college's quality assurance policy also **should** cover any elements of an institution's activities that are subcontracted to or carried out by other parties. (ESG G1.1)

8.4.8 The nursing college's quality assurance policy **should** be translated into practice through a variety of internal quality assurance processes that allow participation across the institution. (ESG G1.1)

8.5 Interaction with Health Sector

8.5.1 The nursing college **must** have constructive interaction with the health and health related sectors of society and government.

8.5.2 The nursing college **should** formalise its collaboration, including engagement of staff and students, with partners in the health sector and regarding the dual learning as required by the national academic standards.

8.5.3 The higher education institution **should** publish information about their activities, including programmes, which is clear, accurate, objective, up-to date and readily accessible.

Standard 9. CONTINUOUS RENEWAL

9.1 The nursing college **must** as a dynamic and socially accountable institution

- initiate procedures for regularly reviewing and updating the process, structure, content, outcomes/competencies, assessment and learning environment of the programme;
- rectify documented deficiencies;
- allocate resources for continuous renewal.

9.2 The nursing college **should** base the process of renewal on prospective studies and analyses and on results of local evaluation and the medical education literature.

9.3 The nursing college **should** ensure that the process of renewal and restructuring leads to the revision of its policies and practices in accordance with past experience, present activities and future perspectives.

9.4 The nursing college **should** address the following issues in its process of renewal:

- adaptation of mission statement to the scientific, socio-economic and cultural development of the society.
- modification of the intended educational outcomes of the graduating students in accordance with documented needs of the environment they will enter.
- adaptation of the curriculum model and instructional methods to ensure that these are appropriate and relevant.
- adjustment of curricular elements and their relationships in keeping with developments in behavioural and social sciences, changes in the demographic profile and health/disease pattern of the population, and socioeconomic and cultural conditions. The adjustment would ensure that new relevant knowledge, concepts and methods are included and outdated ones discarded.
- development of assessment principles, and the methods and the number of examinations according to changes in intended educational outcomes and instructional methods.
- adaptation of student recruitment policy, selection methods and student intake to changing expectations and circumstances, human resource needs, changes in the premedical education system and the requirements of the educational programme.
- adaptation of academic staff recruitment and development policy according to changing needs.
- updating of educational resources according to changing needs, i.e. the student intake, size and profile of academic staff, and the educational programme.
- refinement of the process of programme monitoring and evaluation.
- development of the organisational structure and of governance and management to cope with changing circumstances and needs and, over time, accommodating the interests of the different groups of stakeholders.

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