[Date]

Post-Registration Standards Consultation

Professional Practice Directorate

Nursing and Midwifery Council

23 Portland Place

London

W1B 1PZ

Via email to consultations@nmc-org.uk

Dear Colleagues,

**NMC Proposed Post-Registration Standards for Specialist Practitioner Qualifications**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Post-Registration Standards consultation with a letter in addition to the online consultation.

I am [detail here your role, the programmes you manage or contribute to and the number of SPQ students you enrol each year].

[Describe if you have a Community Specialist Practitioner Qualification and why you feel this is important].

I am writing to express my concerns that there are no field-specific (‘bespoke’) standards of proficiency for the individual specialist areas of nursing. My principal concern is that there is an assumption that all nursing roles in the community, primary and social care are very similar in knowledge and skills and that the specific nature and scope of the work we undertake bears little difference to the competencies for registration.

As an educator, I am concerned that the use of core standards of proficiency will not properly facilitate the education of Community Specialist Practitioners who are fully fit for their challenging roles, as there will be considerable variation amongst programme providers. There will be no incentive for universities to have additional requirements to differentiate the programmes they offer.

Community Specialist Practitioners are autonomous practitioners working at an advanced level of practice, providing care for people with complex health needs and each annotated qualification requires a unique set of knowledge and skills. The Queen’s Nursing Institute, RCN and other groups have articulated some of the field-specific standards required for the role, but I do not believe that these have been appropriately considered by the NMC. I believe that without field-specific standards to inform curriculum development, there will be unwarranted variation in the preparation of the practitioners and wide variation in the knowledge and skills of those holding each specific annotated recordable qualification.

Furthermore, I believe that without field-specific standards in community nursing education, services will find it difficult to deliver on NHS priorities such as increasing the care delivered outside of hospital and the two-hour crisis response service in England.

In order to ensure safe and effective care I would urge the Nursing and Midwifery Council to reconsider the need for field-specific standards of proficiency for the existing Specialist Practitioner Qualifications and for other fields of community specialisms currently without an SPQ, which have been highlighted in the draft programme standards.

Yours faithfully,

**[Print Name]**

**[Designation]**