

SOUTH AFRICA



(Google, 2017)

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POPULATION: 55,91 million (mid-year 2016)

GDP 2016: Q4 = -0,3% q/q

Unemployment 2016: Q4 = 26,5%

ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING

South African Nursing Council's (SANC's) POSITION PAPER / STATEMENT

BACKGROUND IN CONTEXT

In March 2012 at a meeting within the South African Nursing Council (SANC) and Under the provisions of the Nursing Act of 2005, the SANC approved the "*position paper*" on Advanced Practice Nursing.

Registered Nurses with the SANC who have gained higher qualifications or attained specialised disciplines, are currently undistinguished regardless of whether they have obtained their additional nursing qualification through a master's degree programme or an advanced diploma qualification. The SANC recognises that this has given rise to vagueness about the advanced practice nurses status and classification, resulting in on-going implications such as having an impact on their clinical career pathways and remuneration of these advanced practice nurses (SANC, 2017).

The "position statement" evolved after group discussions with stakeholders and also national and international research. The position statement is aimed to shed some light in addressing not only the vagueness around advance practice nurse status, but also to modify nursing and higher education legislation and; request clarification from nurses working at an advanced-level in South Africa.

Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)

Regarding nurse categories, the SANC recognises the view of the International Council for Nurses (ICN) in that each individual country should consider its own context, health care system and resources available to enable the country to model its own level/s of specialisation accordingly (SANC, 2017).

SANC also acknowledges the need for the Advanced Practice Nurse. There are two advanced practice nursing levels:

“Nurse specialist: This level requires **in-depth knowledge and expertise** in a specific practice area such as paediatric nursing. To become a nurse specialist would require a post-graduate diploma (PGD) in the specific specialisation. This qualification will yield a professional registration with the Council as a nurse specialist (e.g. nurse specialist: paediatric nursing).

Advanced Nurse Specialist: This level requires registration with the Council as nurse specialist as an entry requirement. The Advanced Nurse Specialist, in addition to in-depth clinical specialisation knowledge has to acquire **broader field dynamics** at master’s level e.g. strategic leadership, health service management, research and policy making. The qualification will yield no professional registration but can be logged as an additional qualification with the Council” (SANC, 2017).

APN Definition

Advanced Nurse or Midwife Specialist:

“An advanced nurse/midwife specialist (ANS or AMS) is a specialist clinician with a broad autonomous practice managing a specific case load. This advanced nurse/midwife specialist may function as first entry-point and needs the knowledge and expertise to be able accurately to assess, diagnose and manage the patient population in the speciality area. This may include being able to make a “medical diagnosis” and prescribe treatment. This usually requires expertise in diagnostic testing and treatment beyond the normal practice of the nurse/midwife. In South Africa she/he may practise as a private practitioner, but this is not exclusive to this category” (SANC, 2017).

SANC Competencies for APN

The SANC developed competencies for APN under provisions of the Nursing Act (2005) – see links below :

<http://www.sanc.co.za/pdf/Competencies/SANC%20Competencies-Generic%20Framework%20for%20Advanced%20Nurse%20Practitioners%202014-05.pdf>

http://www.sanc.co.za/professional_practice.htm

References

South African Nursing Council. Advanced Practice Nursing
http://www.sanc.co.za/position_advanced_practice_nursing.htm

Statistics South Africa - <http://www.statssa.gov.za/>

Trends in Nursing Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2012 <http://fundisa.journals.ac.za>

<http://dx.doi.org/10.14804/1-1-28>

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