

Introduction to Anglophone AFRICA APN Coalition

The Anglophone Africa Advanced Practice Nurse Coalition (AAPNC) was set up in 2018 to coordinate a global initiative for advanced practice nursing (and Midwifery) in Africa. We collaborated with colleagues across disciplines who are involved in the development of advanced nursing/midwifery practice in Africa to write a proposal on APN/M. Through the proposal, we sought support from the World Health Organisation (WHO), AFRO Region by giving a compelling case for Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) development across the continent. We highlighted the need for development of APNs to be prioritised in policy and workforce planning within the region to address challenges in healthcare delivery. These challenges are further influenced by the SDGs and the quest for UHC. Our work is also supported by the International Council of Nurses; ICN NP/APNN, NursingNow, American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) International Committee, Jhpiego and the Africa Interprofessional Education Network (AfriPEN). Our priorities: Development of Family Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Practice Midwifery roles to improve access especially in rural areas and underserved communities in Africa.

For advanced roles to be effective and successfully implemented, we advocate that standardisation of education, scope of practice and regulation of APN be made a priority. We acknowledge that every nation within Africa is unique with different burdens of disease and human resources for health available to provide quality care; hence the preparation and scope of APNs may vary. However, we believe that lessons can be learnt from our colleagues who have implemented similar frameworks such in Family Medicine and the Africa Federation of Emergency Medicine including an Afrocentric Emergency Nursing Curriculum. It is our anticipation that collaboration will extend across national and regional institutions such as National Nurses Associations (NNAs), the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing (ECSACON), the West African College of Nursing (WACN), East Central Southern Africa College of Physicians, regulators and other networks to improve health of populations.

Our vision is of a competent workforce providing safe, quality, integrated care. We advocate for an evidenced based model in setting minimum standards for APNs, utilising the APRN Consensus Model. Whilst we recommend the application of the APRN Consensus Model, we also advocate that nations cast their nets wider as they develop country-specific roles. A lot can be learnt on interprofessional learning and collaborative practice in advanced practice education, prescribing practice education standards and development of advanced practice educators. Within Africa, we can also build on the work already done in 'task shifting' to address needs of populations beginning at the primary healthcare level.

Our APN work is not aimed at replacing APN developments already in progress across Africa; instead our aim is to enhance current efforts and initiate others. We presented examples from some of the work in progress in anglophone countries in our proposal and advocated for further pilots and evaluation of APN roles as they develop, particularly in francophone and lusophone countries. Our work is aligned to the mission of the ICN APNN :

<https://international.aanp.org/About/Aims>

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