

Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities  
Approval Policy of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses

Established on June 26, 1998

### **Chapter 1. General Rule**

Article 1. This policy is established by the Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities (hereinafter called the “Association”) to set up standards of an appropriate educational curriculum to foster advanced practice nurses and to define necessary matters for approval of the educational curriculum in the aim of maintaining and improving education for the advanced practice nurses with state-of-the-art expertise and technique.

### **Chapter 2. Definition of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 2.

1. The educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses consists of those for certified nurse specialists and nurse practitioners.
2. The aim of the educational curriculum for certified nurse specialists is to integrate care and cure and provide excellent care directly to a patient with complicated health problems in the field of healthcare, medicine and welfare, as well as to foster an advanced practice nurse who can improve nursing practice by performing consultation, coordination, ethics alignment, education and research and improving whole care system.
3. The aim of the educational curriculum for nurse practitioners is to cooperate with hospitals and clinics in the field of healthcare, medicine and welfare, to integrate care and cure for a patient with current or potential health problems, to provide curative or preventive intervention autonomously within a certain range, and to foster an advanced practice nurse who can provide excellent care directly.

### **Chapter 3. Definition of an Educational Curriculum in the Nurse Specialist Field**

Article 3.

1. Any educational curriculum in the nurse specialist field<sup>1)</sup> is established based on approval of the assembly after discussion in the approval committee and board of directors.
2. Standards of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses and the examination standards are reviewed periodically.

<sup>1)</sup>The “nurse specialist field” is used for the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses, or the educational curriculum for certified nurse specialists and nurse practitioners.

#### **Chapter 4. Application Qualification to Gain Approval of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 4. An institution which applies for approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses should meet the following criteria:

- (1) Provides curricula (26, 38, and 46 units of credit) or will provide curricula (38 and 46 units of credit) to educate advanced practice nurses in a graduate school in Japan.
- (2) Meets the following condition which was defined somewhere else by the Association in terms of educational curricula:
  - A. If the institution applies 26 units of credit for certified nurse specialists:<sup>2)</sup>
    - i) The credit should be more than 26 units, of which more than 6 units must be practical training.
    - ii) More than 8 units of common subjects should be compulsory subjects.
    - iii) Standards of a special educational curriculum for each nurse specialist field should be fulfilled.

<sup>2)</sup> New application can be received for annual period 2014 or earlier. Reapplication can be received for annual period 2015 or earlier.

- B. If the institution applies 38 units of credit for certified nurse specialists:<sup>3)</sup>
  - i) The credit should be more than 38 units, of which more than 10 units must be practical training.
  - ii) More than 8 units of common subject A should be compulsory subjects.
  - iii) More than 6 units of common subject B should be compulsory subjects.
  - iv) Standards of a special educational curriculum for each nurse specialist field should be fulfilled.

<sup>3)</sup> New application will be received from annual year 2012.

- C. If the institution applies 46 units of credit for nurse practitioners:<sup>4)</sup>
  - i) The credit should be more than 46 units, of which more than 10 units must be practical training.
  - ii) More than 8 units of common subject A should be compulsory subjects.
  - iii) More than 6 units of common subject B should be compulsory subjects.
  - iv) Standards of a special educational curriculum for each nurse specialist field should be fulfilled.

<sup>4)</sup> New application will be received from annual year 2015.

## **Chapter 5. Assessment Method for Approval of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

### Article 5.

1. A representative of the institution of the preceding article should apply to the Association with application documents and examination fee. The application documents and examination fee are defined somewhere else.
2. In an educational curriculum already approved as the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses, addition and modification of common subjects and special subjects and change of units of credit should be applied to the Association with application documents and examination fee. The application documents and examination fee are defined somewhere else.

### Article 6.

1. Examination are performed annually with focus on documentary examination.
2. The approval committee perform interview on a case-by-case basis if needed.

### Article 7.

1. The Representative Director of the Association will deliver a certificate of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses (hereinafter called as the “Certificate”) to the institution which educational curriculum was approved by the approval committee.
2. The Association will publish the name of the educational institution and register it to the listing of certified educational curricula for advanced practice nurses when the Association granted certification of the preceding item.
3. Effective period of the Certificate is 10 years from the year of certification,<sup>5)</sup> except when an institution losses the qualification of approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses based on article 12 and 13 of this policy. In such case, the Certificate will become invalid when the institution losses the qualification.

<sup>5)</sup> If the institution applies 26 units of credit for certified nurse specialists as defined in article 4 (2) A, effective period should be until annual year 2020.

## **Chapter 6. Renewal of Approval of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 8. The Association enforces renewal system of approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses in order to maintain and improve quality of the educational curriculum.

Article 9.

1. An institution with an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses certified from the Association must renew the certification every 10 years from the date of approval.
2. An institution applying renewal of the certification should submit application to the Association with application documents and examination fee. The application documents and examination fee are defined somewhere else.
3. Examination are performed annually with focus on documentary examination.

Article 10. An institution applying renewal of the certification of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses is defined by the policy of article 4 and 5.

#### **Chapter 7. Alternation Report of a Name of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 11.

1. An institution should report alternation of a name of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses approved by this Association, if any.
2. An institution should report alternation of a name of the university, its graduate course, or its educational curricula or courses, if any.
3. An institution should report alternation of a name of a subject, if any.

#### **Chapter 8. Loss of Qualification to Gain Approval of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 12. Qualification to gain approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses should be forfeited through discussion of the approval committee when the following condition are fulfilled:

- (1) When an institution refuses to accept the approval of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses.
- (2) When the certification of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses are not updated.

Article 13. The Association can cancel the approval of an educational curriculum for advanced

practice nurses by discussing the reason in the approval committee and board of directors if the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses is determined to be appropriate.

### **Chapter 9. Coordination with Other Organizations**

Article 14. The Association can cooperate or consult with other organizations to approve an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses as needed.

### **Chapter 10. Revision of the Policy**

Article 15. Revision of this policy should be approved by the general assembly after discussion of the approval committee and board of directors.

Article 16. Any matters necessary for approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses are defined somewhere else apart from this policy.

### **Supplementary Provision**

#### <Dates of Enforcement>

1. This policy is enforced from June 26, 1998.
2. This policy is enforced from October 22, 1999.
3. This policy is enforced from May 23, 2003.
4. This policy is enforced from May 11, 2007.
5. This policy is enforced from January 10, 2011.
6. This policy is enforced from June 18, 2012.
7. This policy is enforced from February 16, 2015.

#### <Interim Measure>

1. An educational curriculum already approved for certified nurse specialists is considered to be certified in terms of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses defined in article 2.

Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities  
Detailed Authorization Policy of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses

Established on June 26, 1998

**Chapter 1. General Rule**

Article 1. This detailed policy is established by the Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities (hereinafter called the “Association”) to enforce the authorization policy of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses per article 16 of the policy.

**Chapter 2. Definition of an Educational Curriculum of Nurse Specialist Field**

Article 2. A representative who file definition of an educational curriculum of nurse specialist field must submit a predefined application document (Form 8) to the approval committee. The application document should include the following:

- (1) The need to define the nurse specialist field.
- (2) The current condition of existing graduate-school education in this field.
- (3) A draft special educational curriculum in this field.
- (4) Draft examination standards of a special educational curriculum in this field.

Article 3. Application of definition of an educational curriculum of nurse specialist field should be filed by the end of July of each year with an application document prepared (Form 8).

Article 4.

1. Educational curricula and their names which are defined in the nurse specialist field are the following:

(1) Educational curricula for certified nurse specialists

Cancer Nursing; Chronic Care Nursing; Woman’s Health Nursing; Child Health Nursing; Gerontological Nursing; Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing; Family Health Nursing; Infection Control Nursing; Community Health Nursing; Critical Care Nursing; Home Care Nursing; Genetic Nursing; Disaster Nursing; and Radiological Nursing.

Names of Educational Curricula in the Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities	Names of Certified Nurse Specialists in the Japanese Nursing Association
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Educational curriculum of Cancer Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Cancer Nursing
Educational curriculum of Chronic Care Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Chronic Care Nursing
Educational curriculum of Woman's Health Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Woman's Health Nursing
Educational curriculum of Child Health Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Child Health Nursing
Educational curriculum of Gerontological Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Gerontological Nursing
Educational curriculum of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Educational curriculum of Family Health Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Family Health Nursing
Educational curriculum of Infection Control Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Infection Control Nursing
Educational curriculum of Community Health Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Community Health Nursing
Educational curriculum of Critical Care Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Critical Care Nursing
Educational curriculum of Home Care Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Home Care Nursing
Educational curriculum of Genetic Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Genetic Nursing
Educational curriculum of Disaster Nursing	Certified nurse specialist in Disaster Nursing
Educational curriculum of Radiological Nursing	Not determined

(2) An educational curriculum for nurse practitioners

Primary Care Nursing

A Name of educational curriculum for nurse practitioners	Not assigned
Special educational curriculum of Primary Care Nursing	Not determined

2. "Advanced Practice Nurse" is a formal name in English.
3. "Certified Nurse Specialist in (a nurse specialist field)" is used to express the field of a certified nurse specialist in English.

4. “Certified Nurse Practitioner in (a nurse specialist field)” is used to express the field of a nurse practitioner.

Article 5.

1. Standards of an educational curriculum of advanced practice nurses and its examination standard are reviewed every 5 years by setting up the Accreditation Committee for Advanced Practice Nurse Curriculum (herein referred to as the “Accreditation Committee”).
2. The board of directors designates members of the Accreditation Committee.

### **Chapter 3. Application Qualification to Gain Approval of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 6. An institution which applies for approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses should provide the following educational contents defined in the standards of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses:

- A. If the institution applies renewal of 26 units of credit for certified nurse specialists:<sup>2</sup>
  - i) Common subjects are Nursing Education, Nursing Management, Nursing Theoretics, Nursing Research, Consultation, Nursing Ethics, and Nursing Politics.
  - ii) Special educational curricula for each nurse specialist field are presented in the standards of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses in appendix.
- B. If the institution applies 38 units of credit for certified nurse specialists:
  - i) Common subjects A and B should be set up. Common subjects A are Nursing Education, Nursing Management, Nursing Theoretics, Nursing Research, Consultation, Nursing Ethics, and Nursing Politics. Common subjects B are Physical Assessment, Pathophysiology, and Clinical Pharmacology.
  - ii) Special educational curricula of each nurse specialist field are presented in the standards of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses in appendix.
- C. If the institution applies 46 units of credit for nurse practitioners:
  - i) Common subjects A and B should be set up. Common subjects A are Nursing Education, Nursing Management, Nursing Theoretics, Nursing Research, Consultation, Nursing Ethics, and Nursing Politics. Common subjects B are Physical Assessment, Pathophysiology, and Clinical Pharmacology.
  - ii) Special educational curricula of each nurse specialist field are presented in the standards of educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses in appendix.

### **Chapter 4. Assessment Method for Approval of an Educational Curriculum for**

## **Advanced Practice Nurses**

### Article 7.

1. According to the policy article 4, application documents for approval should include the following:
  - (1) An application document for approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses (Form 1-1).
  - (2) A common subject checklist (Form 2 for application of 26 units, 38 units, or 46 units)
  - (3) A special educational curriculum checklist (Form 3 for application of 26 units, 38 units, or 46 units)
2. A graduate school which common subjects has been already reviewed should submit Form 1 and 3 if it applies approval of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses in a new nurse specialist field.
3. An institution should submit Form 1 and 2 or 3, as well as Form 12-1 or 12-2, when it applies addition and change of a subject of any educational curriculum already approved or approval of a subjects due to change of required subject units.
4. An institution which desires certification of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses should submit application documents and examination fee to the approval committee by the end of July of each year.
5. Paid examination fee is not returned.

Article 8. Recommendation and contents of advice from the approval committee are not published except to the educational institution.

Article 9. Certification of the policy article 7 is Form 4 and list of certified educational curricula for advanced practice nurses is Form 5.

Article 10. This Association publishes essential points to examine an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses.

### Article 11.

1. Expiration date of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses certified by the Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities are set based on the annual year when the curriculum was approved.
2. When an additional common subject is approved for the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses per article 7-3, the expiration date of the added subject is pursuant to the

expiration date of the curriculum already approved.

3. When an additional subject of a special curriculum is approved for the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses per article 7-3, the expiration date of the added subject is pursuant to the expiration date of the curriculum already approved.

## **Chapter 5. Renewal of Approval of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 12.

1. Application documents for renewal of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses should include the following:
  - (1) An application form for renewal of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses (Form 1-2)
  - (2) A common subject checklist (Form 2-1 or 2-2)
  - (3) A special educational curriculum checklist (Form 3)
  - (4) Explanation of Modifications (Form 9-1 or 9-2)
2. An institution which desires renewal of certification must submit application documents and examination fee to the approval committee by the end of July of each year.

## **Chapter 6. Alternation of a Name of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 13. Alternation report of a name of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses is Form 13.

## **Chapter 7. Withdrawal of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses**

Article 14. Withdrawal report of the educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses during certification period is Form 1-3.

## **Chapter 8. Coordination with Other Organizations**

Article 15. Specific agreements of notification and discussion for certification result of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses are defined between the Representative Director of the Association and the President of the Japanese Nursing Association.

- (1) A meeting should be set up between the Association and the Japanese Nursing Association to

discuss about problems related to the certified nurse specialist system, as needed.

- (2) Certification result of an educational curriculum for certified nurse specialists approved by the Accreditation Committee for Certified Nurse Specialist Curriculum of this Association is reported to the department of certification for certified nurse specialists in the Japanese Nursing Association.
  - (i) Notification should be accompanied by a given document (Form 6 or 7).
  - (ii) Notification should be sent once a year and after the certification was made in the year.

## **Chapter 9. Revision of the Detailed Policy**

Article 16. Revision of this detailed policy should be approved by the approval committee and board of directors.

### **Supplementary Provision**

1. This detailed policy is enforced from June 26, 1998.
2. This detailed policy is enforced from October 22, 1999.
3. This detailed policy is enforced from May 23, 2003.
4. This detailed policy is enforced from May 7, 2004.
5. This detailed policy is enforced from May 13, 2005.
6. This detailed policy is enforced from May 11, 2007.
7. This detailed policy is enforced from December 20, 2008.
8. This detailed policy is enforced from January 10, 2011.
9. This detailed policy is enforced from March 18, 2012.
10. This detailed policy is enforced from June 18, 2012.
11. This detailed policy is enforced from February 16, 2015.
12. This detailed policy is enforced from January 22, 2016.
13. This detailed policy is enforced from January 29, 2017.

Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities  
Standards of an Educational Curriculum for Advanced Practice Nurses

**Education Philosophy for Advanced Practice Nurses**

The educational curriculum is intended to foster the following human resources: An advanced practice nurse is an excellent nursing care provider who uses knowledge and techniques of advanced nursing freely to a patient, family and population by integrating care and cure and coordinates/manages prevention and treatment of a disease, cure, and life process in general. The role is to implement advanced care based on its specialty, provide education or consultation to care providers including nurses, research, coordinate a healthcare/welfare team, and coordinate ethical issues. An advanced practice nurse also gives a challenge to a new issue in its professional discipline with comprehensive judgment and organized problem-solving ability and serves as a change agent who has a developmental role to reflect educational or political issues as well as in practice.

Education philosophy for a 26-unit educational curriculum for certified nurse specialists is as following: A certified nurse specialist has a role to use its excellent profession to improve quality of nursing care, consult or educate nursing staff, research, coordinate care related to healthcare/welfare needs, and coordinate ethical issues. A certified nurse specialist also fosters human resources who can give a challenge to a new issue in its professional discipline with comprehensive judgment and organized problem-solving ability and can serve as a change agent who has a developmental role to reflect educational or political issues as well as in practice. In the nursing field in Japan, he/she is expected to become a pioneer/reformer of healthcare cooperatively with a nursing manager or nursing staff.

**Common Purpose of an Advanced Practice Nurse (Standard Skill Level)**

An advanced practice nurse is a certified nurse who has “advanced practical skill of nursing integrating care and cure” in a certain nursing field.

An advanced practice nurse has the following role in each nurse specialist field:

- 1) Implements advanced nursing integrating care and cure to a patient, family and population in a nurse specialist field (“Practice”).
- 2) Has an educational role for nurses to improve care in a nurse specialist field (“Education”).
- 3) Provides consultation to care providers including nurses in a nurse specialist field

- (“Consultation”).
- 4) Coordinates parties related to healthcare and welfare to provide necessary care smoothly in a nurse specialist field (“Coordination”).
  - 5) Administers research activities in a practical field to improve or develop technical knowledge and techniques in a nurse specialist field (“Research”).
  - 6) Performs ethical coordination between related parties in terms of ethical issues or conflicts in a nurse specialist field (“Ethics”).

### **Standards of an Educational Curriculum**

- 1) The standards should follow the approval standards of an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses, article 4 (2) A, B, and C.
- 2) Common subjects or common subjects A should be selected from the 7 subjects below which should be taken more than 8 units: 1) Nursing Education, 2) Nursing Management, 3) Nursing Theoretics, 4) Nursing Research, 5) Consultation, 6) Nursing Ethics, and 7) Nursing Politics.
- 3) Common subjects B should be selected from the 3 subjects below which should be taken more than 6 units: 1) Physical Assessment, 2) Pathophysiology, and 3) Clinical Pharmacology.
- 4) The standards of a special educational curriculum for each nurse specialist field are presented in appendix.
- 5) It is important to guarantee educational quality of practical training because the training improves essential practical skill for advanced practice nurses. Therefore, the practical training should not emphasize a focus on only practicing, but also enhancing necessary practical skill for advanced practice nurses, reforming nursing activities with inventive approach, and maintaining skill to develop such activities in a socially organized way by taking advantage of various methods, such as supervision, case studies, or discussion seminars.

Established on June 26, 1998.

Revised on April 1, 2004.

Revised on September 30, 2011.

Revised on January 11, 2014.

Revised on February 16, 2015.