[Date]

Post-Registration Standards Consultation

Professional Practice Directorate

Nursing and Midwifery Council

23 Portland Place

London

W1B 1PZ

Via email to consultations@nmc-uk.org

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 survey.

I am [detail here your role, the size of the team you manage and the challenges you face day-to-day].

[Describe your Community Specialist Practitioner Qualification and why you feel it is important].

I am writing to express my concerns that there are no field-specific (‘bespoke’) standards of proficiency for the individual annotated Specialist Practitioner Qualifications (SPQs). My principal concern is that there is an assumption that these roles are all similar in nature and that the specific nature and scope of the work we undertake is simply limited to a development of the competencies for initial registration.

Community Specialist Practitioners are autonomous practitioners working at an advanced level of practice, leading, managing and providing care for people with complex health needs and each role 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 of proficiency required for these roles, and as an experienced and expert practitioner working in this field, I know that this is a missed opportunity to demonstrate the distinctive knowledge and skills required for this leadership role.

Furthermore, I am very concerned that:

a. Without field-specific standards of proficiency, there will be greater variation in practice and specialist practitioners will not be adequately prepared for their roles as leaders of specific nurse-led services.

b. NHS services will be unable to deliver on national policy requirements, such as the NHS Long Term Plan in England, for which community nurses with Specialist Practitioner Qualifications have a significant role in the delivery.

c. Widespread variation in courses offered by different Approved Educational Institutions (AEIs) will introduce unwarranted variation in care provision, as there will be no field-specific standards against which to judge their appropriateness to the qualification awarded. The purpose of national standards is to ensure standardised provision, from which healthcare in our country currently benefits.

I urge the Nursing and Midwifery Council to reconsider its position regarding field-specific standards of proficiency and work with the professionals in our fields of practice, to ensure that the standards accurately reflect the work as it is done. In this way, the care of people in the community and their families will be given the most secure regulatory foundations.

Yours faithfully,

**[Print Name]**

**[Designation]**