

The Standards of the Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions

To safeguard the public through ensuring the governance of professional organisations and professional competency of their members, the Accreditation Agent of the AR Scheme has defined a set of Standards to be met by professional organisations on (1) Governance, (2) Operational effectiveness, (3) Standards for registrants, (4) Educational and training requirements, and (5) Management of the register. The Accreditation Agent will review the standards with stakeholder consultation from time to time, and at least every four year, taking into consideration the findings of relevant research and evidence, government policies and regulation, as well as the latest development of the professions.

	Standard	Descriptions
1.	Governance	<p><i>The organisation is responsibly governed to meet its defined purposes and objectives.</i></p> <p>The organisation is required to be a recognised independent legal entity in Hong Kong, which holds a register for practitioners in a healthcare profession, with clear vision and purpose/mission which are communicated to stakeholders. It should demonstrate a strong commitment to protecting the public and promoting public confidence in the profession it registers.</p>
2.	Operational effectiveness	<p><i>The organisation is effectively managed to meet its strategic, operational and financial objectives.</i></p> <p>The organisation should demonstrate the ability to manage the register effectively, have sufficient finance to enable it to effectively fulfil its register function, and have complaint management framework and procedures which are made known to stakeholders.</p>
3.	Standards for registrants	<p><i>The organisation sets and publishes standards for its registrants.</i></p> <p>The organisation sets, promotes and publishes standards of good practice, with due stakeholder consultation, in relation to professional behaviour based on an ethical framework, and technical competence based on a defined body of knowledge of the profession.</p>
4.	Educational and training requirements	<p><i>The organisation sets standards for education and training to enable its registrants to competently practise in the profession.</i></p> <p>The organisation requires its registrants to meet its educational standards which define a set of minimum clinical knowledge and skills for all</p>

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		registrants. The organisation is also required to ensure its registrants keep abreast of knowledge and developments in the profession.
5.	Management of the register	<p><i>By effectively holding and maintaining a register for its profession, the organisation promotes the health, safety and well-being of service users and the public in order to generate confidence in the register.</i></p> <p>The organisation is required to ensure that the register is accurate, current, easily accessible to the public, and supports all users in making informed decisions.</p>

References

1. International Society for Healthcare Quality (ISQua). *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Health and Social Care Standards*, 4th Edition Version 1.0 (September 2013).
2. Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care at UK. *Accredited Registers Programme – Accreditation Guide* (November 2014).
3. Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care at UK. *Accredited Registers Report March* (March 2015).
4. Voluntary Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Personnel who are currently not subject to Statutory Regulation. Legislative Council Panel on Healthcare Services LC Paper No. CB(2)1459/15-16(03), May 2016.