

January 13, 2020

Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, PhD, RN, FAAN, co-chair
Susan D. Rupert, PhD, FNP-C, FCCM, FNAP, FAAN, co-chair
CCNE Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Programs Standards Committee

Dear Dr. Clabo and Dr. Ruppert:

The American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the *Proposed Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Practitioner Residency /Fellowship Programs* and supports the need for the accreditation of these programs.

AONL is the professional organization of the 10,000 nurse leaders who manage and provide patient care across the health care continuum. AONL is a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association, the national organization representing nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations.

AONL believes nurse practitioners who graduate from nationally accredited graduate educational programs are prepared to provide high quality, evidenced-based and cost-effective patient care to diverse populations. AONL supports the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education position that residency/fellowship programs are voluntary in nature and completion of these programs is not required for certification or practice.

AONL supports the Nurse Practitioner Roundtable's position on the word "residency". The Nurse Practitioner Roundtable Position on Post-Clinical Licensure states, *"The term residency is not accurate when applied to the nurse practitioner (NP) profession. In NP academic preparation, clinical hours are under the supervision of an experienced preceptor and are embedded in the academic program. Those clinical hours and focus are central to the education and practice of the NP (e.g. family, pediatrics, women's health, etc.). In medicine, a residency is a requirement to obtain licensure to practice and occurs after the physician has completed the general medical education program. In NP education, clinical preparation is embedded throughout the educational program."*¹

AONL agrees with the Nurse Practitioner Roundtable's position on the use of the term "fellowship" to best describe optional post-licensure specialty training programs. Its use prevents confusion and clarifies NP licensure is not contingent upon completion of additional post-licensure training.

Thank you for your leadership in nursing education. We appreciate your consideration of these issues. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Jo Ann Webb at jwebb@aha.org.

Sincerely,



Robyn Begley
Chief Executive Officer, AONL
Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, AHA

¹ The Nurse Practitioner Roundtable Position on Post-Licensure Clinical Training, July 2019, p2.