



Africa Network For Associate Clinicians

Supporting Those Who Save Lives

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Outline

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Background

- Africa Network for Non Physician Clinicians (NPC) formed in August 2009
- Founding Members: training institutions involved in NPC training – Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, South Sudan, Liberia
- Secretariat is hosted in Lusaka, Zambia, with focal person in member countries to coordinate activities & Online presence
- April 2012 - Changed name to Africa Network for Associate Clinicians (ANAC)

Rationale for ANAC

- 47 African countries have Associate Clinicians (ACs)(formerly known as non-physician clinicians NPCs)
- Recognize different types of Associate Clinicians and level of practice
- Associate Clinicians contribution to health sector not heard
- Desired a community of practice to share experiences in training
- After HRH for maternal & neonatal survival meeting in Ethiopia 2009, they proposed to form community of practice focused on AC Training
- The Network was established in 2010

What's in a Name?

From Non-Physician Clinicians to Associate Clinicians

- Name change adopted in April 2012
- Agreed upon after regional consultation with the clinicians themselves
- “Associate Clinicians” will be used in regional and global forums, replacing “NPC” – but will **not** replace titles within countries,
- Will appear in upcoming WHO documents

Who are Associate Clinicians?

In different countries, these health care providers are known by different names, including:

- Assistant medical officers,
- Clinical associates
- Clinical officers
- Health officers
- Medical assistants
- Medical licentiate practitioners
- Physician assistants
- Physician associates
- Surgical technicians
- Tecnicos de cirurgia

Collectively, they are called associate clinicians and now speak with one voice.

Purpose of the Network

- Strengthen political and professional support for associate clinicians;
- Improve and enhance the quality and development of associate clinician training in priority health services, including emergency obstetric and newborn care; and
- Contribute to an overall reduction in morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa

Objectives of the ANAC

- Create awareness and partnerships
- Support the development and expansion of quality Associate Clinician programs
- Support research activities among members
- Establish country Associate Clinician activities

Key Activities to Date: Global

- Consultant to WHO Optimizing Human Resources for MNCH
 - First time that Associate Clinicians have been included in WHO discussions
 - Associate Clinicians to be included as separate category of health worker for MNCH in forthcoming WHO guidelines
- Established online presence and conducted 2 facilitated discussions
 - Over 300 online members from 45 countries with over 315 contributions

Key Activities to Date: Regional

- Review of AC Training facilities in 6 member countries completed (with support from American College of Nurse-Midwives)
- Development of EmOC Core Competencies for Associate clinicians (and advanced Associate Clinicians) - through participatory process across member countries (draft)
- Two ANAC Regional Meetings held
- ANAC Strategic Plan developed with participation of member countries
- Ongoing contact with Associate Clinician institutions and associations in the Region

Key Activities to Date: Country Level

- Continually strengthening in-country capacity of Associate Clinician Networks
- Review of Associate Clinician training curricula:
 - Medical Assistants in Malawi
 - Medical Licentiates in Zambia
- Support Associate Clinicians to conduct own research
 - A study of experiences, challenges and opportunities of medical licentiate practitioners working in rural Zambia

Looking Forward

The Network is new and the first time a regional network has focused on African needs headed by Associate Clinicians.

There are still many activities ahead and goals to accomplish:

- Build and expand the ANAC
- Finalize minimum core competencies for Associate Clinical training for Maternal Health Care
- Strengthen Country level Associate Clinician institutions and associations
- And more.....

Join Our Community

- Keep current with emerging literature on training for priority health services
- Share your associate clinician experience with other stakeholders
- Help us to promote the professional identity of associate clinicians
- Support best practices in training
- Collaborate on research activities

Register www.associateclinicians.org



**Thank you
Ke a leboha
Baie Dankie
Ngiyabonga
Enkosi**