

National Joint Annual Review 2078/79

Combined presentation of councils



Government of Nepal

Ministry of Health and Population

Health related Councils

- Nepal Medical Council
- Nepal Nursing Council
- Nepal Professional Health Council
- Nepal Ayurveda Medical Council
- Nepal Pharmacy Council
- Nepal Health Research Council

Major Achievements in FY 2078/79

Nepal Medical Council

- Registration, monitoring visa and renewal for foreign doctors updated and tightened
- Adopted the provision of acknowledging fellowship training but not certification
- Initiation of registration process right from the first year of education
- Development of COVID-19 related directives
- O&M survey conducted but yet to be endorsed
- Forms and formats related to treatment updated and harmonized
- Initiation taken for controlling misleading advertisements and regulation
- Common practical curriculum prepared for standardization of registration exam

Nepal Health Professional Council

- Exams are being done (third batch completed)
- Other routine regulatory functions are being conducted

Major Achievements in FY 2078/79

Nepal Nursing Council

- Registration of qualified nursing professionals and midwives by licensing exam
- Separate licensing system for PCL and bachelor level nursing program
- Specialized registration for master level of nursing
- Guidelines for
 - CPD for license renewal
 - Scope of practice and code of conduct for nurses and midwives
 - Simulation-based education
- Development/revision of practical record books for PCL, midwives and nurses

Nepal Ayurveda Medical Council

- Exam conducted: expectation for uniform exam process and certificates
- Guidelines, procedural documents and ethics prepared

Major Achievements in FY 2078/79

Nepal Pharmacy Council

- Academic calendar for name registration exam
- Provision of mandatory information to council, before any professional engagement
- Updated information of registered Pharmacists and Pharmacy Assistants
- Two academic institutions blacklisted based on onsite visit
- Contribution in amendment of Hospital Pharmacy Guidelines, 2078

Nepal Health Research Council

- Online systems initiated for most of the regulatory functions
- Monitoring of 32 institutional review committees (out of total 56)
- National summit of health and population since 2015
- Knowledge café organized in coordination with MoHP on strategic priorities
- Multiple studies/researches are being carried e.g., on maternal mortality, burden of disease, COVID-19, mental health, infertility, clinical trial

Key issues and challenges

- Concept of Umbrella Act for all councils does not seem reasonable given the diverse areas councils are covering but harmonisation is needed
- Poor adherence of legal provisions and ethics by health professionals, e.g. for surgery or diagnostics
- Contradictory provisions prevail in multiple legal documents
- There is need for joint monitoring of academic programs by MEC and related councils to ensure quality
- Data verification/registry update: Multiple registration number of the same person who have graduated in multiple disciplines
- Revision of O&M survey has been delayed due to administrative process (NMC)
- Weak organizational structure and election for Committee Members not happened for long (NHPC)

Key issues and challenges

- Unemployment and underpayment for nurses and other technicians
- License exam: concerns on pass rate- systematize and harmonize standards and procedures
- There is need of separate wings within the councils for inclusion of alternative, Chinese medicine systems, public health (masters), naturopathy, unani, etc
- Poor infrastructure (NAMC and NPC) and limited staff to monitor and regulate diverse areas (NAMC)
- Fraudulent certifications still prevail
- Dispute in regulation versus monitoring of hospitals pharmacies (NPC)
- Facilitation of university-based research activities while ensuring ethics and quality

Way Forward

- Amendment of laws and bylaws of councils considering the federalism and for harmonization across all councils mainly for
 - Legal provision; Roles and responsibilities; Working procedure
- Renewed focus for the councils in the context of academic function is with MEC
- Organizational restructuring for enhanced capacity through O&M surveys
- License exam: systematize and harmonize standards, procedures and certification across councils
- Systematic approach for Continued Professional Development
- Clarity regarding the scope for further education for those who are not able to secure license
- Prescription audit of registered practitioners (collaboration of NMC and NPC being initiated)
- Resolving the monitoring versus of regulation of hospital pharmacy
- Strengthening Institutional Review Committee for facilitating university-based researches
- Promote collaborative approach across multiple councils and with MEC
- Strengthen MoHP support to respective councils



Thank you