Standards for the use by orthoptists of exemptions to sell and supply medicines (‘the Standards’)

Information for education providers delivering orthoptist pre-registration education and training

1. Changes made in 2016 to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 mean that appropriately trained orthoptists are able to access an exemption list of medicines that they are able to sell or supply in the course of their professional practice. Only orthoptists who have completed approved training and who have a mark or ‘annotation’ on the HCPC Register should use these exemptions.

2. When these standards were first developed, it was anticipated that training for orthoptists to use these exemptions would be delivered post-registration. As a result, the introduction to the Standards currently reads: ‘If you are an orthoptist, you should only use exemptions in your practice if you have completed post-registration training which we have approved and have a mark or ‘annotation’ on the HCPC Register to show that you have done so.’ (emphasis added; page two).

3. We understand that there is interest amongst providers of pre-registration education and training to include exemptions training in their programmes. We will be making changes to the introduction very shortly to remove reference to ‘post-registration training’ to make it clear that training can be delivered as part of approved pre or post registration education and training.

4. Education providers wishing to incorporate training to use the exemptions into pre-registration programmes would need to demonstrate how by the completion of programmes students meet successfully the second part of the Standards (‘Standards for orthoptists using exemptions in legislation for the sale and supply of medicines’). They would also need to continue to demonstrate that they meet the standards of education and training and the standards of proficiency for orthoptists.

5. Any questions about the approval of education and training programmes should be directed to the Education Directorate by emailing: education@hcpc-uk.org.