

**Health Professions Council
Education and Training Committee – 28 March 2007**

Historical approval of programmes leading to entitlements under the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997

Executive Summary and Recommendations

This paper should be read in conjunction with the paper entitled ‘Approval of programmes leading to entitlements under the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997.

Introduction

We currently annotate the register to indicate where registrant chiropodists / podiatrists are qualified to administer local analgesia (LA) and to supply prescription only medicines (POM) under the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997.

The 1997 order gave state registered chiropodists the legal entitlement to administer certain local anaesthetics within the programme of their practice without a prescription from a doctor, providing they held a ‘certificate of competence’ in the use of analgesics issued by the Chiropodists board of the CPSM. An amendment to the order in 1998 gave state registered chiropodists who held a certificate of competence in their use to supply certain prescription only medicines in programme of their professional practice.

At the Education and Training Committee in October 2004 and the Approvals Committee in February 2005, a policy was agreed to enable the approval of post-registration programmes in LA and POM.

This policy focused on new post-registration programmes in LA and POM, which education providers had never delivered before. Subsequently, three programmes which allow registrants to gain the entitlement in local anaesthetics have been approved at New College Durham, Anglia Ruskin University and Glasgow Caledonian University. To date, we have not approved any programmes which allow registrants to gain the entitlement in prescription only medicines.

The earlier policy agreed by the Education and Training Committee did not consider programmes in LA and POM historically approved by the Chiropodists board of the CPSM. It has recently come to light that there are a number of programmes in LA and POM which were approved by the Chiropodists board of the CPSM, which have not had their approval formally withdrawn, or renewed by the HPC.

We have received feedback directly from education providers that the period between the Chiropodists board of the CPSM issuing ‘certificates of competence’ and the HPC agreeing the policies and processes to approve LA and POM programmes was one of uncertainty and limited communication.

In particular, education providers were unclear of whether programmes historically approved by the Chiropodists board of the CPSM could continue to be offered; whether there were alternative arrangements for registrant chiropodists / podiatrists to gain these entitlements and whether registrant chiropodists / podiatrists who completed these programmes would be able to obtain the annotation on the HPC Register.

To provide clarity to education providers and registrant chiropodists and podiatrists who have studied LA and POM programmes in the last five years, the Executive consider it necessary that the HPC reach an agreement on how to deal with LA and POM programmes approved historically by its predecessor body.

The Executive intend to propose to the next Education and Training Committee that LA and POM programmes historically approved by the Chiropodists board of the CPSM are considered in detail, with a view to renewing approval, and/or recognising historical approval, where appropriate.

It is likely some education providers will wish to continue offering these programmes in the future (as there is a substantial number of registrant chiropodists / podiatrists who were registered via the grandparenting and international route who do not currently have the LA and POM entitlements); whilst other education providers will only require historical approval of their programme to allow recent students who completed them to obtain the annotation on the Register. Consequently, the Executive intend to recommend that the minor/major change process is used to reconfirm programme approval before a new cohort is enrolled. It is felt that this would ensure a robust and effective monitoring of the programme without being over burdensome.

The Executive have already requested information from the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists on the LA and POM programmes historically approved by the Chiropodists board of the CPSM to assist with this proposal.

Decision

The Committee is invited to discuss this proposal and agree that the Executive should prepare the recommendation for full discussion at a future meeting.

Background information

None

Resource implications

To be confirmed at a later date.

Financial implications

To be confirmed at a later date.

Background papers

Education and Training Committee - October 2004 - Local Analgesia (LA) and Prescription Medicine (POM)

Approvals Committee - February 2005 Approval of Post-Registration Programmes LA and POM

Appendices

None

Date of paper

19 March 2007