

Visitors' report – amended approval process for independent prescribing programmes

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Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	Sheffield Hallam University
Programme name	Non-medical prescribing
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant entitlements	Independent prescribing Supplementary prescribing
Name of HCPC visitors and visitor role	Nicola Carey (Independent prescribing) Marcus Bailey (Paramedic)
HCPC executive	Louise Devlin
Date of assessment day	1 November 2013

Section two: Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve education programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us.

As well as approving educational programmes for individuals who want to join the Register, the HCPC approve programmes for those already on the Register.

Along with several other entitlements, we currently approve programmes to allow:

- chiropodists / podiatrists, radiographers and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with supplementary prescribing; and
- chiropodists / podiatrists and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with independent prescribing.

We have previously ensured that a currently running supplementary prescribing programme at this education provider has met the standards of education and training (SETs). As this new or amended programme is based on an existing HCPC approved supplementary prescribing programme, we can be satisfied that

it meets some of the standards for prescribing, which are based on the SETs. However, we have identified some standards where we will need to make a judgement about how the introduction or modification of elements of the programme impact on the way it meets these standards.

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing, and that those who complete the programme demonstrate an ability to meet the standards for all prescribers (along with the additional standards for independent prescribers where required).

Section three: Submission details

The following required documents were provided as part of the submission:

- Information for applicants (eg advertising materials, admissions / entry criteria)
- Programme specification
- Student handbook
- Information about programme and management team structure, including staff CVs
- Module descriptors
- Extracts from practice placement documents
- Extracts from assessment regulations relating to student progression and external examiners
- Standards for prescribing mapping document

The following additional documents were also provided as part of the submission:

- Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) Handbook (Level 6 & 7)
- Non-Medical Prescribing Definitive Document
- Non-Medical Prescribing application form 2013 – 14
- Non-medical Prescribing - September 2013 cohort timetable
- Fitness to Practise Operational Guidelines for staff
- Fitness to Practise regulations
- External examiner reports 2011 – 12 and 2012 – 13
- Internal moderation document

Section four: Additional documentation

- The visitors agreed that no further documentation was required in order to make a recommendation.
- The visitors agreed that additional documentation was required in order to make a recommendation. The standards for which additional documentation is requested are listed below with reasons for the request.

Section five: Recommendation of the visitors

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that:

- There is sufficient evidence to show the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing, and therefore that the programme be approved
- There is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing. Therefore, a visit is recommended to gather more evidence, and if required place conditions on approval of the programme

Section six: Visitors' comments

The visitors noted that there were some inaccuracies within the documentation in regards to references to the HCPC's former name, the 'Health Professions Council' (HPC), and reference to the HCPC as a professional body, rather than a regulatory body. There was also reference to the start date of the programme as 2011, and some out of date references to 2010. Finally, there were also some references to the 'CRB' (Criminal Records Bureau) which is now the 'DBS' (Disclosure and Barring Service), and to the amount of time in supervised practice as '90 days' rather than '90 hours' (Module descriptor, page 35). The visitors therefore suggest that the programme team update their documentation to ensure that the terminology in use is accurate, consistent and reflective of the language associated with statutory regulation and of the current programme.