

Visitors' report – amended approval process for independent prescribing programmes

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Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	University of Essex
Programme name	Practice Certificate in Supplementary Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant entitlement	Supplementary prescribing
Name and role of HCPC visitors	Glyn Harding (Paramedic) Michael Minns (Independent prescriber)
HCPC executive	Alex Urquhart
Date of submission to the HCPC	11 November 2014

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

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.

B.5 There must be an adequate number of appropriately qualified staff, experienced and, where required, registered staff in place to deliver an effective programme.

Reason: The visitors noted that they would like to see some evidence that prescribing in the professional context of radiography in the teaching and staff expertise.

Suggested documentation: Staff Curriculum vitae that clearly indicate which members of the teaching team currently hold either a SP or SPIP qualification.

C.9 When there is interprofessional learning the profession-specific skills and knowledge of each professional group must be adequately identified and addressed.

Reason: Although the programme incorporates interprofessional learning, no mention of radiographers is made on the module documentation purported to offer radiographers a supplementary prescribing exit award. Although radiographers are the only allied health profession that can supplementary prescribe, aside from Physiotherapists and Podiatrists which the education provider runs a separate programme for, the lack of reference to radiographers could be seen as misleading

Suggested documentation: A module outline which clearly demonstrates that the named award is specifically for radiographers.

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