

Visitors' report – amended approval process for independent prescribing programmes

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Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	University Campus Suffolk
Name of awarding / validating body	Universities of East Anglia and Essex
Programme name	Non-Medical Supplementary Prescribing
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant entitlement	Supplementary prescribing
Name of HCPC visitors and visitor role	Alison Wishart (Chiropodist / podiatrist) David Rovardi (Independent prescribing)
HCPC executive	Mandy Hargood
Date of assessment day	7 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:

- 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 required documentation was not provided:

- Information for applicants (eg advertising materials, admissions / entry criteria)

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.

A.1 The admissions procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up or make an offer of a place on a programme.

Reason: The visitors noted that the education provider has submitted several independent and supplementary prescribing programmes for consideration at the same time. In the submission, details of generic entry standards and information about the programmes have been provided. However, the visitors could not determine what, if any, differences there are in the admission criteria for the programmes and in particular how they are applied to this Non-medical

Supplementary Prescribing programme. In particular it was not clear about the admissions requirements for radiographers wishing to complete the supplementary prescribing programme. As such the visitors could not determine how potential applicants are given the information they need to be able to make an informed choice about whether to take up a place on this programme. Therefore, the visitors require further evidence of the entry criteria for this programme, as well as further evidence of the information available to potential applicants.

Suggested documentation: Documentation regarding the programme's specific entry criteria, particularly what experience an applicant must demonstrate before being offered a place on the programme. Further evidence of how potential applicants are informed of the differences between the programmes delivered at the education provider, if any, should also be provided.

E.7 Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for student progression and achievement within the programme.

Reason: The visitors noted, from the documentation provided, that this programme is run in tandem with the other supplementary and independent prescribing programmes at the education provider. They also noted the generic information provided about progression through these programmes. However, the visitors could not determine how students are informed of the progression route through this Non-medical Supplementary Prescribing programme in particular. As such the visitors require further information as to how the programme team inform students of the progression route through this programme.

Suggested documentation: Documentation containing information which articulates for students how they can achieve and progress through this programme.