

Visitors' report – amended approval process for independent prescribing programmes

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Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	University of the West of England, Bristol
Programme name	Prescribing Principles (Level M)
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant entitlements	Independent prescribing Supplementary prescribing
Name of HCPC visitors and visitor role	Michael Minns (Independent prescribing) Glyn Harding (Paramedic)
HCPC executive	Abdur Razzaq
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 currently running supplementary prescribing programmes at this education provider have 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.

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 in the documentation provided that the education provider expects a 100 per cent attendance for this programme and a register will be kept. The application form in appendix 1 states "I have discussed with my mentor and my manager how the required 90 hours of supervised learning and the 5 directed learning days will be achieved". However in Appendix 2, the visitors noted the prescribing programme structure stated 15 days of taught teaching and 5 mandatory learning days. These statements could mislead students about mandatory attendance on the programme. Therefore, the visitors suggest that the programme team updates the programme documentation to ensure that it clearly states the rationale and requirement for attendance. This is to ensure that students have enough information to make an informed decision about whether to take up an offer on the programme.