

HCPC major change process report

Education provider	Robert Gordon University
Name of programme(s)	Non-Medical Prescribing, Part time Non Medical Prescribing (SCQF Level 9), Part time Non Medical Prescribing (SCQF Level 11), Part time Prescribing for Healthcare Practitioners (SCQF Level 9), Part time Prescribing for Healthcare Practitioners (SCQF Level 11), Part time
Date submission received	14 July 2020
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Contents

Section 1: Our regulatory approach.....	2
Section 2: Programme details.....	2
Section 3: Requirements to commence assessment.....	4
Section 4: Visitors’ recommendation.....	4

Executive Summary

We are the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), a regulator set up to protect the public. We set standards for education and training, professional knowledge and skills, conduct, performance and ethics; keep a register of professionals who meet those standards; approve programmes which professionals must complete before they can register with us; and take action when professionals on our Register do not meet our standards.

The following is a report on the major change process undertaken by the HCPC to ensure that programmes detailed in this report meet our standards for prescribing (for education providers) (referred to through this report as ‘our standards’). The report details the process itself, the evidence considered, and recommendations made regarding programme approval.

Section 1: Our regulatory approach

Our standards

We approve programmes that meet our education standards, which ensure individuals that complete the programmes meet proficiency standards. The proficiency standards set out what a registrant should know, understand and be able to do when they complete their education and training. The education standards are outcome focused, enabling education providers to deliver programmes in different ways, as long as individuals who complete the programme meet the relevant proficiency standards.

Programmes are normally [approved on an open-ended basis](#), subject to satisfactory engagement with our monitoring processes. Programmes we have approved are listed [on our website](#).

How we make our decisions

We make independent evidence based decisions about programme approval. For all assessments, we ensure that we have profession specific input in our decision making. In order to do this, we appoint [partner visitors](#) to undertake assessment of evidence presented through our processes. The visitors make recommendations to the Education and Training Committee (ETC).

The ETC make decisions about the approval and ongoing approval of programmes. In order to do this, they consider recommendations detailed in process report. The Committee meets in public on a regular basis and their decisions are available to view [on our website](#).

HCPC panel

We always appoint at least one partner visitor from the profession (inclusive of modality and / or entitlement, where applicable) with which the assessment is concerned. We also ensure that visitors are supported in their assessment by a member of the HCPC executive team. Details of the HCPC panel for this assessment are as follows:

James Pickard	Chiropodist / podiatrist Independent Prescribing, POM – Administration POM - Sale / Supply (CH) Podiatric Surgery
Janet Lawrence	Physiotherapist Supplementary Prescribing Independent Prescribing
John Archibald	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Supplementary prescribing
First intake	01 September 2007
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 24
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04686

Programme name	Non Medical Prescribing (SCQF Level 9)
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Independent prescribing Supplementary Prescribing
First intake	01 January 2014
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 12
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04687

Programme name	Non Medical Prescribing (SCQF Level 11)
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Independent prescribing Supplementary Prescribing
First intake	01 January 2014
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 12
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04688

Programme name	Prescribing for Healthcare Practitioners (SCQF Level 9)
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Independent prescribing Supplementary Prescribing
First intake	01 September 2020
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 115: three cohorts of 35 learners each and one of 10 learners
Intakes per year	4
Assessment reference	MC04744

Programme name	Prescribing for Healthcare Practitioners (SCQF Level 11)
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Independent prescribing Supplementary Prescribing
First intake	01 September 2020
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 115: three cohorts of 35 learners each and one of 10 learners
Intakes per year	4
Assessment reference	MC04745

We undertook this assessment to consider whether the programme continues to meet our standards, following changes reported to us via the major change process. The following is an overview of the changes from the information received via this process.

The education provider has informed us they are replacing their current supplementary prescribing and independent prescribing provision, with two new programmes. Applicants must now have been registered for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry onto the programme. Assessments will now include a 3000 word case-based discussion which focusses on a prescribing decision from the student's practice. The education provider has informed us learners will now need to be supported by a Practice Educator, rather than a Designated Medical Practitioner, and that the programmes meet the new HCPC standards for prescribing.

Section 3: Requirements to commence assessment

In order for us to progress with approval and monitoring assessments, we require certain evidence and information from education providers. The following is a list of evidence that we asked for through this process, and whether that evidence was provided. Education providers are also given the opportunity to include any further supporting evidence as part of their submission. Without a sufficient level of evidence, we need to consider whether we can proceed with the assessment. In this case, we decided that we were able to undertake our assessment with the evidence provided.

Required documentation	Submitted
Major change notification form	Yes
Completed major change standards mapping	Yes

Section 4: Visitors' recommendation

In considering the evidence provided by the education provider as part of the initial submission, the visitors were satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that our standards continue to be met, and therefore recommend that the programme(s) remain approved.

This report, including the recommendation of the visitors, will be considered at the 20 August 2020 meeting of the ETC. Following this meeting, this report should be read alongside the ETC's decision notice, which are available [on our website](#).