

HCPC major change process report

Education provider	University of Lincoln
Name of programme(s)	Practice Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing, Part time Postgraduate Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing, Part time Independent/Supplementary Prescriber Preparation Practice Certificate, Part time Independent/Supplementary Prescriber Preparation Post Graduate Certificate, Part time
Date submission received	17 May 2021
Case reference	CAS-16984-Q7C8K0

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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:

David Rovardi	Independent prescriber
Rosemary Furner	Independent prescriber
Temilolu Odunaike	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	Practice Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Supplementary prescribing
Entitlement	Independent prescribing
First intake	01 August 2017
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04881

Programme name	Postgraduate Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Supplementary prescribing

Entitlement	Independent prescribing
First intake	01 August 2017
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04882

Programme name	Independent/Supplementary Prescriber Preparation Practice Certificate
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Supplementary prescribing
Entitlement	Independent prescribing
First intake	01 October 2021
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04895

Programme name	Independent/Supplementary Prescriber Preparation Post Graduate Certificate
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Supplementary prescribing
Entitlement	Independent prescribing
First intake	01 October 2021
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04896

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 is making several changes to their existing approved level 6 and level 7 Non-medical prescribing programmes. These include renaming of the programmes as well as changes to the admissions procedure, management and resources, design and delivery, practice-based learning and assessments.

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: Outcome from first review

In considering the evidence provided by the education provider as part of the initial submission, the visitors were not satisfied that there was sufficient evidence that our standards continued to be met at this time, and therefore require further evidence as noted below.

Further evidence required

In order to determine whether the standards continue to be met, the visitors require further evidence for the following standards for the reasons noted below.

We expect education providers to review the issues identified in this report, decide on any changes that they wish to make to programme(s), and then provide any further evidence to demonstrate how they meet the standards.

C.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that learners meet the standards set out in the Competency Framework for all Prescribers, as appropriate to the prescribing mechanism(s) delivered by the programme.

Reason: As evidence for this standard, the visitors reviewed the RPS Competency Framework mapping where they saw how the learning outcomes are mapped to the standards. Additionally, they reviewed other evidence for standards C5 and E1/E2, including the Individualised Consultation – Reflecting writing and the Prescribing Governance – Case Study, Assessment Briefing Templates 2021-22 amongst other documents. The visitors noted that these documents made numerous references to the learning outcomes, with a comprehensive mapping across the assessments, portfolio review and RPS framework. However, the visitors were unable to locate a clear definition of the individual learning outcomes from the evidence submitted. As none of the documents submitted provided clear definitions of the learning outcomes mapped to the standards set out in the Competency Framework, the visitors could not determine how these standards would be delivered by the learning outcomes. They therefore request further evidence to demonstrate this standard is met.

Suggested evidence: Evidence providing the description / detail of the individual learning outcomes.

Section 5: Visitors' recommendation

Considering the education provider's response to the request for further evidence set out in section 4, the visitors are satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that the standards continue to be met and recommend that the programme(s) remain approved.

This report, including the recommendation of the visitors, will be considered at the 06 July 2021 meeting of the ETC. Following this meeting, this report should be read alongside the ETC's decision notice, which are available [on our website](#).