

**Health Professions Council
Approvals Committee – 2 March 2006**

**EXTERNAL EXAMINERS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PRESCRIBING
COURSES**

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

Over the last academic year, when considering Supplementary Prescribing programmes, there have been issues with regards to the interpretation of one the HPC's Standards of Education and Training. The standard involved, *S.E.T 6.7.5* falls under Assessment standards, and concerns the role of external examiners in the quality assurance of programme assessments. *S.E.T. 6.7.5* states that: *Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for: the appointment of at least one external examiner from the relevant part of the register.*

Where Supplementary Prescribing courses contain students from more than one of the Allied Health Professions, education providers have found it difficult, and impractical, to recruit external examiners to represent each of the professions. The HPC visiting panels have discussed the recruiting and cost implications for education providers faced with this problem, and have felt that it would be appropriate for the education provider to provide an external examiner from just one of the represented Allied Health Professions.

Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the following:

For Supplementary Prescribing courses, where more than one of Allied Health Professions is represented in the student cohort, there should be an external examiner from at least *one* of the relevant parts of the register, not *all* of the relevant parts.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

14 February 2006