

Local Analgesia (LA) and Prescription Medicine (POM)

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The Education & Training Committee must now agree the policy on local analgesia (LA) and prescription only medicine (POM) to enable approval of post-registration programmes in LA and POM, in accordance with Schedule 2 (24) of the Health Professions Order, 2001 and in accordance with the requirements of the Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and the Medicines Control Agency.

Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the following the policy on local analgesia and prescription only medicine as set out in *appendix 1*.

Background information

Historical Background

At a meeting on 18th January 1972, the Chiropodists Board passed the following resolution: That the use of local analgesia be regarded as a recognised technique, on the following conditions:

- a) That its use is designed to relieve patients of pain and not to enable the practitioner to use techniques which he has not been trained to use;
- b) That the practitioner has satisfactorily completed a course of a standard approved by the Chiropodists Board;
- c) That the course is conducted at a School of Chiropody approved by the Board, or at some other institution approved by the Board for that purpose;
- d) That a Consultant Anaesthetist or an Anaesthetist holding approved anaesthetic qualifications is in charge of, or very closely connected with, the conduct of the course and of the practical work connected with it;
- e) That, at the end of the course, practitioners are required to pass an appropriate examination, in which a Consultant Anaesthetist and/or Consultant Surgeon takes part and that they are awarded a certificate of competence on passing the examination

The involvement of consultant anaesthetists in the delivery and examination of current undergraduate programmes is now very limited. The responsibility in most cases being delegated to the providers approved by, at that time the chiropodists board and subsequently the HPC, by the consultants who had been instrumental in the development of the individual programmes.

From the 1977 intake of students, the 'Part B' course in local analgesia was incorporated into the diploma and subsequently into the degree pre-registration syllabus of training. Consequently, since 1980, all students of chiropody/podiatry have qualified with a certificate of competence in local analgesia

With the formation of the Health Professions Council certification will be awarded by the HPC and standards of training leading to certification of competence in Local Analgesia will be set and periodically checked by the HPC. Courses will therefore need HPC approval.

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Policy on LA and POM