

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Derby
Programme name	Practice Certificate in Independent/Supplementary Prescribing (Physiotherapists)
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant entitlement(s)	Supplementary prescribing Independent prescribing
Date of visit	13 November 2013

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Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. We are a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. We currently regulate 16 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using a protected title must be registered with us. The HCPC keep a register of health and care professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

As well as approving educational programmes for people who want to join the Register, the HCPC also approve a small number of programmes for those already on the Register. The post-registration programmes we currently approve include supplementary prescribing programmes (for chiropodists / podiatrists, radiographers and physiotherapists) and independent prescribing programmes (for chiropodists / podiatrists and physiotherapists).

The visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 13 February. At the Committee meeting, the programme was approved. This means that the education provider has met the condition(s) outlined in this report and that the programme meets our standards of education and training (SETs) and ensures that those who complete it meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register. The programme is now granted open ended approval, subject to satisfactory monitoring.

Introduction

The HCPC visited the programme at the education provider as it was a new programme which was seeking HCPC approval for the first time. This visit assessed the programme against our standards for prescribing for education providers and ensures that those who complete it meet our standards for prescribing for all prescribers and / or independent prescribers.

This visit was part of a joint event. The education provider and reviewed the programme. The education provider and the HCPC formed a joint panel, with an independent chair and secretary, supplied by the education provider. Whilst the joint panel participated in collaborative scrutiny of the programme and dialogue throughout the visit; this report covers the HCPC's recommendations on the programme only. As an independent regulatory body, the HCPC's recommended outcome is independent and impartial and based solely on the HCPC's standards for prescribing. A separate report, produced by the education provider and the professional body, outlines their decisions on the programme's status.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and visitor role	Nick Haddington (Independent prescribing) Paul Blakeman (Podiatrist)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Ruth Wood
Proposed student numbers	25 two cohorts a year
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2014
Chair	Jenifer Lewis-Smith (University of Derby)
Secretary	Zoe Pritchett (University of Derby)
Members of the joint panel	Val Poultney (Internal Panel Member) Richard Self (Internal Panel Member) James Beech (Internal Panel Member)

Sources of evidence

Prior to the visit the HCPC reviewed the documentation detailed below, sent by the education provider:

	Yes	No	N/A
Programme specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Descriptions of the modules	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the standards for prescribing for education providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the standards for prescribing for all prescribers and / or independent prescribers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practice placement handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum vitae for relevant staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
External examiners' reports from the last two years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The HCPC reviewed draft documentation for this programme at the visit.

During the visit the HCPC saw the following groups or facilities:

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior managers of the education provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators/mentors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation (eg specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of our standards for prescribing for education providers and ensures that those who complete it meet our standards for prescribing for all prescribers and / or independent prescribers.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that a number of conditions are set on the programme, all of which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 49 of the standards have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining one standard.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for approval. Conditions are set when certain standards for prescribing have not been met or there is insufficient evidence of the standard being met.

The visitors have also made a number of recommendations for the programme.

Recommendations are observations on the programme or education provider which do not need to be met before the programme is recommended for approval. Recommendations are normally set to encourage further enhancements to the programme and are normally set when it is felt that the particular standard for prescribing has been met at, or just above the threshold level.

Conditions

B.9 The resources to support student learning in all settings must effectively support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Condition: The education provider must revisit programme documentation to clarify the programme requirements for students.

Reason: At the visit, the visitors were provided with draft documentation for this programme which was the allied health professional version of the non-medical prescribing programme which also had versions for nurses and pharmacists. The visitors noted that there were instances within the draft programme handbook that referred to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). It was discussed at the visit that the programme team plan to use NMC requirements for students' undertaking this programme. It was also highlighted the HCPC does not have any specific requirements (such as admissions requirements, practice hours requirements or attendance requirements). The visitors considered the references to the NMC in the documents may cause confusion for students who are registered with the HCPC. The visitors require the programme documentation to be revisited to clarify for students the programme requirements and provide a rationale for them if necessary. The visitors therefore require the education provider to submit programme documentation that has been revised to take into account the above.

B.9 The resources to support student learning in all settings must effectively support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Condition: The education provider must provide final draft programme documentation that reflects this new programme.

Reason: At the visit, the visitors were provided with draft documentation (programme handbook, module descriptor level 7) for this programme which is the allied health professional version of the non-medical prescribing programme. The visitors heard that programme documentation would be further finalised before the programme would commence (programme handbook, practice assessment handbook, programme specification and module descriptors for level 6 and 7). The visitors highlight that the programme documentation needs to be clear when referring to the learning outcomes to be achieved for allied health professionals as these will be different for this version of the non-medical prescribing programme. The visitors require the education provider to submit the final draft programme documentation for this programme so that they can be satisfied it supports the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

B.9 The resources to support student learning in all settings must effectively support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Condition: The education provider must clarify which professional registrants can enrol on this programme and clearly articulate the subsequent annotation on their registration record.

Reason: The visitors noted this programme is one of the versions of the non-medical prescribing programme. At the visit the visitors were provided with draft documentation for this programme. The visitors noted the documentation inaccurately and inconsistently referred to the award the students would achieve. The programme

handbook says students will be awarded the Practice Certificate in Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Physiotherapists, Podiatrists & Radiographers (Level 6 or Level 7). The programme handbook also states "This [award] will result in the eligibility of the Physiotherapist, Podiatrist & Radiographer to prescribe as an independent/supplementary prescriber within their area of competence"(page 5). The visitors noted that this is unclear and could create confusion for students because radiographers are only able to act as supplementary prescribers. The visitors also noted that the programme documentation refers to physiotherapists, podiatrists and radiographers on the programme inconsistently. The module specification does not include radiographers whereas the programme handbook does. The visitors considered this could be confusing for students. The visitors require the programme team clarify which professional registrants can enrol on this programme and clearly articulate the subsequent annotation on their registration record.

Recommendations

B.6 Subject areas must be taught by staff with relevant specialist expertise and knowledge.

Recommendation: The visitors suggest the education provider consider designating a specific individual who is an allied health professional to contribute to the development and teaching on the programme.

Reason: From the documentation and discussion at the visit the visitors were satisfied the provision of staff and expertise that could be utilised for this programme was sufficient to deliver the programme appropriately and so considered this standard to be met. The visitors noted the introduction of this new programme to the portfolio of non-medical prescribing programmes would extend the professional registrants who can enrol on this programme. The visitors recommend the programme team to look to secure a dedicated individual or group of individuals who can contribute to the development and teaching on this programme and consider the allied health professional perspective in a more structured and formal way.

B.9 The resources to support student learning in all settings must effectively support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Recommendation: The visitors suggest the education provider consider combining the programme handbooks into one unified document for students from all professions undertaking the programme.

Reason: The visitors noted that the education provider has a portfolio of non-medical prescribing programmes. The education provider currently supplies separate programme handbooks for each group of professional students undertaking the programme (pharmacists, nurses, allied health professionals). The visitors considered this may create problems when there are multiple sources of different information for the programme team to maintain. The visitors suggest the programme team consider combining the programme handbooks. The visitors suggested that the aspects of the programme which are the same across all professions and then the differences across the professions could be clearly laid out in one handbook. The visitors felt this could be an easier way to maintain the accuracy and consistency of information being provided to students.

Nick Haddington
Paul Blakeman