

HCPC major change process report

Education provider	Medway School of Pharmacy
Validating body	Universities of Greenwich and Kent
Name of programme(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Independent and Supplementary Prescribing, Distance learning Postgraduate Certificate in Supplementary Prescribing, Distance learning Non-Medical Prescribing, Part time
Date submission received	30 June 2020
Case reference	CAS-16135-K4S3J3

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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:

James Pickard	Independent prescriber
Rosemary Furner	Independent prescriber
Patrick Armsby	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	Postgraduate Certificate in Independent and Supplementary Prescribing
Mode of study	DL (Distance learning)
Entitlement	Supplementary Prescribing, Independent Prescribing
First intake	01 January 2014
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04652

Programme name	Postgraduate Certificate in Supplementary Prescribing
Mode of study	DL (Distance learning)
Entitlement	Supplementary prescribing

First intake	01 May 2006
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 20
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04653

Programme name	Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Supplementary Prescribing, Independent Prescribing
First intake	01 October 2020
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	5
Assessment reference	MC04689

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 indicated they will be including a new prescribing programme in the form of a 40 credit module that sits within MSc Advanced Clinical Practice programme, which is delivered by the University of Greenwich. This module will be optional for learners currently undertaking the MSc programme. As it is optional, the registerable award will be completion of the specific prescribing module rather than the MSc programme. The content of this module will be made up of content from the approved prescribing programmes that are currently delivered by the Medway School of Pharmacy. In accessing this module, learners will have taken part in learning that is part of the current approved programmes within their MSc programme. So as not to repeat learning, 20 credits of the approved programme have been mapped to a module that all learners take part in as part of the MSc programme, the MSc learners will therefore only complete 40 credits of the prescribing programme. Learners will complete this module through a blended learning approach alongside the existing learners.

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.

D.7 Practice educators must undertake regular training which is appropriate to their role, learners' needs and the delivery of the learning outcomes of the programme.

Reason: To evidence this standard the education provider highlighted their document that would serve as a guide for practice educators. The visitors were able to see an overview of the expectations for practice educators and how they will interact with the learners in their role. However, the visitors could not see mention of how practice educators would be prepared in order to support learners and assess them effectively. Furthermore, it was not clear how practice educators would have this training updated as the programme changes and evolves. As such the visitors could not determine this standard was met. The education provider must provide further evidence to show how practice educators are initially trained and how their training is updated to ensure they are able to provide appropriate and effective support for learners.

Suggested evidence: Information around the training of practice educators and how this training is refreshed over time.

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 24 September 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](#).