

HCPC major change process report

Education provider	Staffordshire University
Name of programme(s)	Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals (Level 6), Part time Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals (Level 7), Part time
Date submission received	03 September 2021
Case reference	CAS-17123-R0N1S7

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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:

Nicholas Haddington	Independent prescriber
Rosemary Furner	Independent prescriber
John Archibald	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals (Level 6)
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Independent prescribing Supplementary Prescribing
First intake	01 February 2014
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	3
Assessment reference	MC04952

Programme name	Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals (Level 7)
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Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Independent prescribing Supplementary Prescribing
First intake	01 February 2014
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	3
Assessment reference	MC04953

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 informed us that they have made changes with their programme in line with our revised prescribing standards and the Nursing and Midwifery Council's (NMC) revised standards for prescribing programmes (2019).

We adopted revised standards for prescribing from September 2019. We are satisfied programmes will continue to meet most of our standards based on the revisions we and the NMC have made. Education providers should have made any changes needed to align their programmes to the HCPC revised standards by September 2019. This includes updating requirements to appoint suitable nonmedical prescriber supervisors to support the delivery of programmes.

The education provider has also informed us they have changed the monitoring process for ensuring the quality of practice-based learning. This was performed through a process of self-audit using a standardised form. All areas are now individually assessed using a process where all established partner organisations are quality assured in a rolling programme of audit. For any areas not routinely subject to scheduled audit, a member of the programme team will visit and perform an individual audit of the practice learning environment.

The University is moving to a 20 / 40 credit structure for all its modules across all programmes, so the programmes have changed from 30 credits to 40 credits.

The programme now comprises 24 days theory with a practice learning requirement of 78 hours. This is a reduction from 26 days theory and 90 hours of clinical practice. The module descriptors have been updated and the number of learning outcomes reconsidered.

The learning and teaching methods have changed with a focus on online learning delivery. A reflective case study now forms the major academic element of assessment. The clinical competency document is now called the practice assessment document.

Some of the assessments for the programme have changed. The previous academic component of assessment was a portfolio. This has been changed to a 2,500-word reflective case study and 1000-word assignment on supplementary prescribing and the use of Clinical Management Plans (with a completed CMP). Level seven learners no longer have to complete an additional presentation

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: Visitors' recommendation

In considering the evidence provided by the education provider as part of the initial submission, the visitors were satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that our standards continue to be met, and therefore recommend that the programme(s) remain approved.

This report, including the recommendation of the visitors, will be considered at the 28 September 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](#).