

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Swansea University
Programme name	Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of delivery	Full time Part time
Relevant entitlements	Supplementary prescribing Independent prescribing
Date of visit	5 May 2016

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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, dietitians, radiographers and physiotherapists) and independent prescribing programmes (for chiropodists / podiatrists, physiotherapists, and therapeutic radiographers).

The visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the ongoing approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 7 July 2016. At the Committee meeting on 25 August 2016, the programme was the ongoing approval of the programme was re-confirmed. This means that the education provider has met the conditions outlined in this report and that the programme meets our standards for prescribing for education providers and ensures that those who complete it meet our standards for prescribing for all prescribers. The programme is now granted open ended approval, subject to satisfactory monitoring.

Introduction

The HCPC visited the programme at the education provider to consider major changes proposed to the programme. The major change affected the following standards for prescribing for education providers - programme admissions, programme management and resources, curriculum, practice placements and assessment. The programme was already approved by the HCPC and this visit assessed whether the programme continued to meet 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.

Visit details

Name and role of HCPC visitors	Alaster Rutherford (Independent prescriber) Simon Mudie (Lay visitor) Joanna Jackson (Physiotherapist)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Amal Hussein
HCPC observer	Rebecca Stent
Proposed student numbers	20 per cohort per year
Proposed start date of programme approval	1 September 2016
Chair	David Gethin (Swansea University)
Secretary	Jayne Walters (Swansea University)

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"/>

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"/>

HCPC met with students from the SHGM75 Non-Medical Prescribing programme and PGCert Non-Medical Prescribing, as the programme seeking approval currently does not have any students enrolled on it.

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing 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 ongoing approval of the programme is reconfirmed.

The visitors agreed that 45 of the standards have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining 5 standards.

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

The visitors did not make any recommendations for the programme.

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

Conditions

B.8 The resources to support student learning in all settings must be effectively used.

Condition: The education provider must ensure that all programme documentation is updated so that it is reflective of the HCPC's requirements.

Reason: From a review of the programme documentation, the visitors noted references to an HCPC requirement "that AHPs applying to undertake an independent prescribing programme must: Have at least 3 years relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing" (Application form, page one). However, the HCPC does not prescribe a number of years in service before applying for an independent and / or supplementary prescribing programme. Therefore all programme documentation must be reviewed to ensure that the requirements of the HCPC are accurately reflected.

B.15 Service users and carers must be involved in the programme.

Condition: The education provider must submit further evidence to demonstrate how service users and carers will be involved in the programme.

Reason: From the documentation provided prior to the visit, the visitors noted that the education provider did not provide evidence to demonstrate how service users and carers will be involved in the programme. As such, the visitors were unable to determine prior to the visit, the exact nature of service user and carer involvement in the programme. At the visit, the visitors were provided with supporting evidence of how service users and carers will be involved in the programme. In scrutinising the evidence, the visitors were unable to determine how service users and carers will be involved for this programme. In addition, from the discussions with the programme team it was clear that formal future plans to involve service users throughout the programme have yet to be finalised. As such the visitors were unable to determine, from the evidence provided, how service users and carers will be involved in the programme. In order to determine that this standard is met the visitors require further evidence demonstrating how service users and carers will be involved in the programme going forward.

C.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers.

Condition: The programme team must provide evidence to demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the programme allow students to meet the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers:

1.5 be able to make a prescribing decision based on a relevant physical examination, assessment and history taking.

Reason: From a review of the programme documentation and discussions with the programme team, the visitors were unable to determine where in the curriculum the learning outcomes ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers. From the standards mapping document, the visitors were unable to determine how the above standard was

being taught within the curriculum in such a way to ensure those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers. The visitors require the education provider to provide further evidence that demonstrates that the learning outcomes ensure all standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers, specifically 1.5 is addressed within the curriculum.

C.9 When there is interprofessional learning the profession-specific skills and knowledge of each professional group must be adequately identified and addressed.

Condition: The programme team must provide further evidence on how they ensure profession-specific skills and knowledge of Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) are adequately identified and addressed.

Reason: From documentation provided prior to the visit the visitors could not discern how the education provider will ensure that the required profession-specific skills and knowledge of AHPs are adequately identified and addressed. In scrutinising the evidence, the visitors noted that the AHPs Independent and Supplementary Prescribing programme will be managed and run alongside the Nurse and Midwife Independent Supplementary Prescribing programme. However, the visitors were unable to gain a clear understanding of how the education provider will ensure that profession-specific skills and knowledge of AHPs will be adequately identified and addressed within the programme. As such, the visitors require further evidence on how they ensure profession-specific skills and knowledge of AHPs are adequately identified and addressed.

E.1 The assessment strategy and design must ensure that the student who successfully completes the programme has met the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers.

Condition: The education provider must provide evidence that demonstrates that the assessment strategy and design ensures that those who successfully complete the programme has met the following standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers:

1.5 be able to make a prescribing decision based on a relevant physical examination, assessment and history taking.

Reason: From a review of the programme documentation and discussions with the programme team, the visitors were unable to determine where in the curriculum the assessment of the learning outcomes ensure that those who successfully complete the programme has met the above standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers. From the standards mapping document, the visitors were unable to determine how the above standard for independent and / or supplementary prescribers is being taught and assessed within the curriculum in such a way to ensure those who successfully complete the programme have met the standards for prescribing for independent and / or supplementary prescribers. The visitors require the education provider to provide further evidence that demonstrates that the learning outcomes ensure all standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers, specifically 1.5 is assessed within the curriculum.

Alaster Rutherford
Simon Mudie
Joanna Jackson