Visitors' report – amended approval process for independent prescribing programmes

Contents

Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	Leeds Beckett University
Programme name	Non - Medical Prescribing for Allied Health Professions
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant entitlements	Supplementary prescribing
Name and role of HCPC visitors	Christine Hirsch (Independent Prescribing) Alison Wishart (Chiropodist / podiatrist)
HCPC executive	Amal Hussein
Date of submission to the HCPC	18 November 2014

Section two: Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve education programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us.

As well as approving educational programmes for individuals who want to join the Register, the HCPC approve programmes for those already on the Register. Along with several other entitlements, we currently approve programmes to allow:

- chiropodists / podiatrists, radiographers and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with supplementary prescribing; and
- chiropodists / podiatrists and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with independent prescribing.

We have previously ensured that a currently running supplementary prescribing programmes at this education provider has met the standards of education and

training (SETs). As this new or amended programme is based on an existing HCPC approved supplementary prescribing programme, we can be satisfied that it meets some of the standards for prescribing, which are based on the SETs. However, we have identified some standards where we will need to make a judgement about how the introduction or modification of elements of the programme impact on the way it meets these standards.

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing, and that those who complete the programme demonstrate an ability to meet the standards for all prescribers (along with the additional standards for independent prescribers where required).

Section three: Submission details

The following required documents were provided as part of the submission:

- Information for applicants (eg advertising materials, admissions / entry criteria)
- Programme specification
- Student handbook
- Information about programme and management team structure, including staff CVs
- Module descriptors
- Extracts from practice placement documents
- Extracts from assessment regulations relating to student progression and external examiners
- Standards for prescribing mapping document

The following additional documents were also provided as part of the submission:

- Regulations relating to student progression
- Regulations relating to external examiners
- Placements – Regional Educational Audit Tool (REAT)
- Lectures (a-h)
- Letter of Support from Head of School
- Systematic Examination of Practice Handbook
- Programme and Management Team Structure
- Applicant information (a-f)

Section four: Additional documentation

☐ The visitors agreed that no further documentation was required in order to make a recommendation.

☒ The visitors agreed that additional documentation was required in order to make a recommendation. The standards for which additional documentation is requested are listed below with reasons for the request.

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.

Reason: The visitors noted that the education provider submitted systematic examination of practice handbook (SEP) which detailed how students would be assessed against the assessment criteria. The visitors noted from a review of the documentation, that some of the criteria had 'asterisk', which meant that if a student failed in any of the items marked with an 'asterisk', it would constitute as an overall fail of the programme. However, the visitors noted that item 15 states "Write an accurate mock prescription consistent with the consultation outcome", was not marked with an asterisk, which meant that a student could fail this criteria and still continue. From this the visitors were unable to determine how the assessment strategy ensures that the students who successfully complete the programme met the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers.

Suggested documentation: Further evidence to demonstrate that the assessment strategy for item 15 ensures that the student who successfully completes the programme has met the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers.

E.5 The measurement of student performance must be objective and ensure safe and effective prescribing practice.

Reason: The visitors noted the education provider submitted information regarding the assessment strategy in the documents enclosed. The assessment strategy mapping to the HCPC prescribing standards relies heavily on the designated medical practitioner's sign off. The visitors were not provided with an information about how students' performance will be assessed objectively and the process of moderation during the assessment to ensure objectivity. From the information provided the visitors were unsure how the measurement of student performance is objective and ensures safe and effective prescribing practice.

Suggested documentation: Further information to demonstrate how the measurement of student performance is objective and ensures safe and effective prescribing practice.

Section five: Recommendation of the visitors

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that:

☒ There is sufficient evidence to show the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing, and therefore that the programme be approved

☐ There is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing. Therefore, a visit is recommended to gather more evidence, and if required place conditions on approval of the programme

Section six: Visitors' comments

From a review of the documentation submitted, the visitors were content that these standards have been met at threshold and the education provider has processes in place to ensure that the measurement of student performance is objective and ensure safe and effective prescribing practice. However, the visitors suggest that the programme team review and monitor their current processes regularly. The visitors also suggest the programme team may wish to consider other assessment methods, for example the use of an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) as a more robust objective assessment to ensure safe and effective prescribing practice.

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Relevant entitlements	Independent prescribing
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HCPC executive	Amal Hussein
Date of submission to the HCPC	18 November 2014

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- chiropodists / podiatrists, radiographers and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with supplementary prescribing; and
- chiropodists / podiatrists and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with independent prescribing.

We have previously ensured that a currently running supplementary prescribing programmes at this education provider has met the standards of education and training (SETs). As this new or amended programme is based on an existing HCPC approved supplementary prescribing programme, we can be satisfied that it meets some of the standards for prescribing, which are based on the SETs. However, we have identified some standards where we will need to make a judgement about how the introduction or modification of elements of the programme impact on the way it meets these standards.

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing, and that those who complete the programme demonstrate an ability to meet the standards for all prescribers (along with the additional standards for independent prescribers where required).

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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.

Reason: The visitors noted that the education provider submitted systematic examination of practice handbook (SEP) which detailed how students would be assessed against the assessment criteria. The visitors noted from a review of the documentation, that some of the criteria had 'asterisk', which meant that if a student failed in any of the items marked with an 'asterisk', it would constitute as an overall fail of the programme. However, the visitors noted that item 15 states "Write an accurate mock prescription consistent with the consultation outcome", was not marked with an asterisk, which meant that a student could fail this criteria and still continue. From this the visitors were unable to determine how the assessment strategy ensures that the students who successfully complete the programme met the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers.

Suggested documentation: Further evidence to demonstrate that the assessment strategy for item 15 ensures that the student who successfully completes the programme has met the standards for independent and / or supplementary prescribers.

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Reason: The visitors noted the education provider submitted information regarding the assessment strategy in the documents enclosed. The assessment strategy mapping to the HCPC prescribing standards relies heavily on the designated medical practitioner's sign off. The visitors were not provided with an information about how students' performance will be assessed objectively and the process of moderation during the assessment to ensure objectivity. From the information provided the visitors were unsure how the measurement of student performance is objective and ensures safe and effective prescribing practice.

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