

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Accreditation Criteria for an Independent Prescribing Conversion Course

1. Name of Institution:

2. Criteria for Accreditation

2.1. The Programme Provider

| Criterion | |
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| 2.1.1. | Should be recognised by the Society or PSNI as a provider of an accredited supplementary prescribing programme. |
| 2.1.2. | Should have adequate physical, staff (academic and administrative) and financial resources to deliver the programme including the facilities to teach clinical examination skills. |
| 2.1.3. | Should have evidence that there will be sufficient commissioned places and/or student applicants to support a viable programme. |
| 2.1.4. | Should have identified staff with appropriate background and experience to teach the programme, ideally including practising pharmacists with teaching experience and staff with clinical and diagnostic skills. |

2.2. Pre-requisites for entry

| Criterion | |
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| 2.2.1. | Entrants should have current registration a practising pharmacist with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or PSNI with annotation as a supplementary prescriber. |
| 2.2.2. | Entrants should currently be registered as a supplementary prescribers and able to provide evidence of prescribing experience which is no longer than 2 years' old. |
| 2.2.3. | Entrants should provide a statement of support from a medical practitioner that confirms their competence as a supplementary prescriber. |
| 2.2.4. | The provider should ensure that the pharmacist has a DMP with training and experience appropriate to their role, who has agreed to provide supervision, support and shadowing opportunities for the student, and is familiar with the requirements of the programme and the need to achieve the learning outcomes. |
| 2.2.5. | Entrants should demonstrate how they reflect on their own performance and take responsibility for own CPD and how they will develop their own support networks for the CPD of prescribing practice, including prescribers from other professions. |

2.3. The Programme

| Criterion | |
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| 2.3.1. | Should be taught at least at first degree level (QAA level 3) and reflect the fact that since June 2002, pharmacists have graduated and practise at QAA level 4. |
| 2.3.2. | The programme is freestanding and/or will be combined with an accredited supplementary prescribing programme for interim accreditation of an independent prescribing programme (specify) |
| 2.3.3. | The programme will be assessed separately from any other programmes or as an addition to the assessment of a supplementary prescribing programme leading to a freestanding award which confirms the competence of the pharmacist as an independent prescriber. |

- 2.3.4. Should achieve the additional learning outcomes identified in the curriculum for an independent prescribing conversion course (appendix).
- 2.3.5. Should include teaching, learning and support strategies which allow pharmacists to build on their knowledge and experience of supplementary prescribers
- 2.3.6. Should provide opportunities for pharmacists to demonstrate how they will apply their learning to the conditions for which they will be prescribing.
- 2.3.7. The role of the programme provider and the DMP for teaching the skills for clinical assessment of patients are clearly set out.
- 2.3.8. Should contain learning activities equivalent to 2 days including a minimum of one day of face to face learning activities. The programme will be expected to contain a range of appropriate delivery methods.
- 2.3.9. Should have a clear policy on attendance and participation and the expectations of pharmacists who miss part of the programme.
- 2.3.10. Candidates will be subject to the full assessment process for the conversion course.
- 2.3.11. Should promote multi-professional networking to support critical thinking, reflective practice and the maintenance of CPD records.

2.4. Learning in Practice

| <i>Criterion</i> | |
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| 2.4.1. | The provider should support the DMP with clear and practical guidance on helping the pharmacist successfully to complete the period of learning in practice. |
| 2.4.2. | The provider should support the DMP with clear and practical guidance on their role in the assessment of the student. |
| 2.4.3. | The provider should obtain formal evidence and confirmation from the DMP that the pharmacist has satisfactorily completed at least 2x7.5h days supervised practice. |
| 2.4.4. | The provider should obtain a professional declaration from the DMP that the pharmacist's practice as a prescriber is, in the opinion of the DMP, suitable for registration as an independent prescriber. |

2.5. Assessment

| <i>Criterion</i> | |
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| The programme provider should ensure that assessment strategies meet the requirements of the curriculum particularly: | |
| 2.5.1. | Evidence from a range of assessments that the student has achieved the additional learning outcomes for the conversion course. |
| 2.5.2. | Confirmation that the student has satisfactorily completed the period of learning in practice. |
| 2.5.3. | Failure in this element cannot be compensated by performance in other assessments. |
| 2.5.4. | Confirmation from the period of learning in practice and other learning activities that the pharmacist has the additional clinical competence required to practise as an independent prescriber. |
| 2.5.5. | Details of pass and fail criteria, any arrangements for compensation between the elements of assessment and regulations for resit assessments and resubmissions are consistent with safe and effective prescribing and included in the application for accreditation. |

- 2.5.6. In the assessment, it is expected that a major failure to identify a serious problem or an answer which would cause the patient harm, should result in overall failure.

2.6. Details of Award

| <i>Criterion</i> | |
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| 2.6.1. | The provider should award successful candidates a ' <i>Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing</i> ' confirming that the candidate has successfully completed the programme and the period of learning in practice. |
| 2.6.2. | The provider should send a certified copy of the pass list to the Secretary and Registrar of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, containing the names and registration numbers of the pharmacists who have successfully completed the programme and confirming that they are eligible for registration by the Society as independent prescribers. |