

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Summary of an Independent Prescribing Accreditation Report

University of Reading

1. Summary and Conclusions

As a result of the accreditation event on the 14 December 2007, the panel will recommend to the Society's Education Committee that the Independent Prescribing Programme at the University of Reading is accredited for a maximum period of three years, subject to the conditions and recommendations detailed below. The accreditation panel commended the university on the clarity of the written documentation provided and was impressed by the clear and concise way it was presented, in particular the panel was pleased to see the clear mapping of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society learning outcomes to the programmes material and assessments. The panel was also impressed by the university's virtual learning resource, Blackboard, which enables the students to access course materials, discussion boards and online assessments.

2. Conditions

(It is expected that conditions 2b to 2f inclusive will be satisfied before the programme commences)

- 2a. For quality assurance purposes, all Universities offering newly accredited Independent Prescribing Programmes will be expected to undertake an evaluation of the teaching provided to enable students to develop clinical examination skills, once the first cohort has completed the programme. The evaluation must include assessment results for this essential core element and feedback from students on the teaching provided. The evaluation report must then be forwarded to the Society.
- 2b. The course must be approved by the Faculty of Life Sciences and a copy of relevant documentation must be provided to the RPSGB prior to the course starting. *(Following the accreditation event the programme was approved by the Faculty and the relevant documentation confirming this was provided to the Society).*
- 2c. The University must monitor the student progressions for programmes A and B to ensure equivalence, for a period of three cohorts. This will be reviewed at the time of reaccreditation.
- 2d. The student must undertake the taught clinical skills day before undertaking the assessment.
- 2e. The documentation is reviewed and amended to reflect that the period of learning in practice is 12 x 7.5 hour days.
- 2f. The Dedicated Medical Practitioner (DMP) must sign of a professional declaration that the pharmacist's practice as a prescriber, is, in the opinion of the DMP, suitable for registration as an independent prescriber.

3. Recommendations

- 3a. The team may wish to review the credit rating for the course in line with the sector norm of 40-45 M-level credits.

- 3b. The team review the programme specification to reflect the RPSGB's learning outcome relating to taking accurate histories.
- 3c. The role of the DMP is reviewed to include responsibility for student learning in respect of clinical examination and assessment skills.
- 3d. The course team review the absentee policy for programmes A and B to ensure that it is proportional to the hours of face-to-face contact and is fit for purpose.

The course will not formally be accredited until the accreditation panel's recommendations have been endorsed by the Society's Education Committee.

Following the above accreditation event satisfactory evidence was provided to meet the above conditions of accreditation (with the exception of the standard condition 2a which must be met on completion of the first cohort). The programme was subsequently approved for accreditation by the Society's Education Committee for a period of three years.