

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Summary of an Independent Prescribing Accreditation Report

Sheffield Hallam University

1. Introduction

Sheffield Hallam University approached the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (the Society) to advise the Society of its intention to seek accreditation of an education and training programme to train Pharmacist Independent Prescribers. The University submitted the requisite proforma and supporting documentation. The Society responded to this approach by application of its accreditation procedures for full Independent Prescribing. In accordance with agreed Society policy for managing the accreditation of full Independent Prescribing programmes an accreditation event was scheduled for the 5 September 2008 and a team from Sheffield Hallam University (the team) was invited to attend a meeting with the Society's accreditation panel (the panel), at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London. The accreditation process was based on the Society's published accreditation criteria for full Independent Prescribing. Sheffield University is currently a provider of a supplementary prescribing course for pharmacists.

2. Conditions

There are 17 conditions associated with this report, which, with the exception of condition 2a, must be met 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 [this is a standard condition].
- 2b. To provide the RPSGB with a letter of support from the Strategic Health Authority (Criterion 2.1.3).
- 2c. To add the date of registration and whether or not the pharmacist is on the practising register to the SHA application form (Criterion 2.2.1).
- 2d. To add to the SHA application form a check box for applicants to confirm they have at least two years appropriate patient-orientated experience in a hospital community or primary care setting following their pre-registration year (Criterion 2.2.2), and a space for the applicant to identify the area of clinical practice and need in which to develop their prescribing skills and up-to-date clinical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge relevant to their intended area of prescribing practice (Criterion 2.2.3).
- 2e. To add to the SHA application form a statement of how the applicant takes responsibility for their own CPD and develops their support networks (Criterion 2.2.4).
- 2f. To provide a DMP handbook which contains the following information:
 - i. requirement of the programme to enable the student to meet the learning outcomes;
 - ii. full description of the assessment and role of the DMP;
 - iii. OSCA instructions and checklist; and,
 - iv. the expectations of the DMPs role in teaching skills for clinical assessment(Criterion 2.2.5, 2.3.7, 2.41, and 2.4.2)

- 2g. To provide a statement in the course documentation that 'entrants who are not members of the pharmaceutical societies listed may not undertake any part of the programme' (Criterion 2.2.6)
- 2h. To rewrite the learning outcomes in order to meet M level criteria (2.3.1 and 2.3.4)
- 2i. To add a statement to the course handbook about the requirements for attendance (Criterion 2.3.10).
- 2j. To add a statement to the course documentation which indicates that APEL is not available (Criterion 2.3.11 and 2.3.12)
- 2k. To add a statement to the Practice Placement record of assessment which indicates that the pharmacist has satisfactorily completed at least 12 x 7.5 hour days (90 hours) supervised practice (Criterion 2.4.3 and 2.5.2)
- 2l. To add a statement to the Practice Placement record of Assessment a declaration from the DMP that 'the pharmacists's practice as a prescriber is, in the opinion of the DMP, suitable for registration as an independent prescriber' and to add to the portfolio a log of time in practice with cumulative hours (Criterion 2.4.4 and 2.5.4).
- 2m. To add a statement to the course handbook that no compensation between elements is permitted (Criterion 2.5.3 and 2.5.5).
- 2n. To add a statement to the course handbook which indicates that a major failure to identify a serious problem or an answer which would cause the patient harm should result in overall failure. (Criterion 2.5.6).
- 2o. A member of the academic staff to be present at all DMP assessed OSCAs (Criterion 2.4.1 and 2.5.6)
- 2p. To include an assessment which provides the opportunity to challenge the student to identify and remedy a serious problem (Criterion 2.5.6)
- 2q. To provide the exact wording of the qualification, which is 'Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing' (Criterion 2.6.1).

3. Recommendations

No recommendations were set.

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.

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