

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Summary of an Independent Prescribing accreditation Report

University of Sunderland

1. Summary and Conclusions

Following an accreditation event on the 5 September 2007, the accreditation panel agreed that the structure and the ethos of the programme presented for accreditation was indicative of a highly experienced staff team and a well established School of Pharmacy. The University of Sunderland had constructed an excellent programme in which the panel had confidence. The panel wished to extend its congratulations to the School of Pharmacy. The Independent Prescribing Programme was a natural progression from the Supplementary and conversion programmes that the School had been delivering so successfully. As a result of the accreditation event, the panel will recommend to the Society's Education Committee that the independent prescribing programme at the University of Sunderland is accredited for a maximum period of three years. The panel were particularly impressed with the handbook which had been produced for Mentors.

2. Conditions

- 2a. For quality assurance purposes, given the implications of Independent prescribing and the additional responsibility on pharmacists, 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 report must be forwarded to the Society.

3. Recommendations

- 3a. The panel recommended that the team identify the precise resources required for the programme and obtain the necessary assurances that the resources will continue to be made available in the future. For the record, the Head of School stated at the meeting that the programme would continue to be underpinned financially at the level stipulated in the University's application for accreditation. (Criterion 2.1.3).
- 3b. The panel recommends that the team considers augmenting the current provision for teaching clinical examination skills and diagnosis in line with that of other providers, by exploring the potential for developing links with a nursing programme to strengthen the teaching of physical assessment. (Criterion 2.1.4).
- 3c. In view of the panel's assessment of the workload entailed in the programme, the panel recommended that the team considered increasing the credit rating for the programme from 30 to 45 credits. (Criterion 2.3.1).
- 3d. The panel recommended that the team reviewed the guidance provided in relation to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) (Criterion 2.3.13).
- 3e. The panel recommended that the team consider strengthening the quality assurance arrangements in respect of the OSCE, for example, the team may wish to consider video taping the assessment of a student's communication skills. (Criterion 2.5.5)

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 the programme was approved for accreditation by the Society's Education Committee for a period of three years.