

Interim guidance: new pharmacist independent prescribing education and training standards

February 2019

Background

On 6 December 2018 the GPhC Council agreed to approve the **revised education and training standards for pharmacist independent prescribers**. These new standards are now available to providers. We will implement a period of transition to the new standards, from the beginning to the end of spring 2019. If you are a provider, whether you will be accredited using the previous or the new standards will depend on the date you are due to be reaccredited, or the date of your initial accreditation.

Reaccreditation of existing providers during and after the transition period

If you are a provider due for reaccreditation before the end of spring 2019, you will be reaccredited using the previous set of standards - we will not be able to reaccredit you using the new standards before the end of spring 2019. This is because we are still working to create the evidence framework, submission templates and associated guidance for the new standards.

You will not be able to request an extension to your current accreditation period solely because you want to be reaccredited after the implementation of the new standards.

We will consider extension requests for other reasons as usual.

If you are a provider due for reaccreditation between the beginning and the end of summer 2019, we will give you the option to be reaccredited to the new or previous standards, as we expect the documentation to be completed by this stage. If you want to be reaccredited using the new standards, we will consider extension requests of up to three months if you need more time to prepare your submission.

If you are a provider due for reaccreditation after the beginning of autumn 2019, you will be accredited to the new standards.

If you are a provider due for monitoring events accredited to pre-2019 standards, we do not expect that the structure or focus of monitoring events will change between the new and pre-2019 standards. Monitoring events primarily focus on student experience and the quality of the programme. Programmes due for their monitoring events in 2019 will continue to be subject to the pre-2019 standards.

New providers

Any organisations who express interest in becoming a GPhC accredited provider for pharmacist independent prescribers between now and autumn 2019 will be accredited to the new standards.

Changes to designated prescribing practitioners (DPPs)

The new standards state that suitably experienced non-medical independent prescribers will now be able to act as designated prescribing practitioners (DPPs). The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) have set up a working group to draft guidance for DPPs. The group is expected to complete the guidance by early 2020.

This means that it will be difficult for providers to start using DPPs before the RPS guidance is published, as they will need to demonstrate that DPPs meet the requirement. As a result, we expect that providers will continue to use DMPs into the 2019/20 academic period.