



Independent  
prescribing  
programme

University of Coventry  
Report of a monitoring event  
September 2017

## Event summary and conclusions

<b>Provider</b>	University of Coventry
<b>Course</b>	Independent prescribing programme
<b>Event type</b>	Monitoring event
<b>Event date</b>	6 September 2017
<b>Accreditation period</b>	Sept 2016 – Sept 2019
<b>Outcome</b>	Full accreditation confirmed The accreditation team agreed to recommend to the Registrar of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) that the University of Coventry should be fully accredited as a provider of a pharmacist independent prescribing programme for the remainder of the accreditation period.
<b>Conditions</b>	There were no conditions.
<b>Standing conditions</b>	Please refer to Appendix 1
<b>Recommendations</b>	No recommendations were made
<b>Registrar decision</b>	
<b>Key contact (provider)</b>	Mrs Alison Bardsley, Senior Lecturer – Course Director for Independent and Supplementary Prescribing
<b>Accreditation team</b>	Mr Mike Pettit, (event Chair), Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, University of Sussex Professor Jane Portlock, Professor of Pharmacy Postgraduate Education, University of Sussex
<b>GPhC representative</b>	Mrs Philippa McSimpson, Quality Assurance Officer, GPhC
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Mrs Philippa McSimpson, Quality Assurance Officer, GPhC

## Introduction

### Role of the GPhC

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the statutory regulator for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and is the accrediting body for pharmacy education in Great Britain. The accreditation process is based on the GPhC's 2010 accreditation criteria for Independent Prescribing.

The GPhC's right to check the standards of pharmacy qualifications leading to annotation and registration as a pharmacist is the Pharmacy Order 2010. It requires the GPhC to 'approve' courses by appointing 'visitors' (accreditors) to report to the GPhC's Council on the 'nature, content and quality' of education as well as 'any other matters' the Council may require.

The powers and obligations of the GPhC in relation to the accreditation of pharmacy education are legislated in the Pharmacy Order 2010. For more information, visit:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/231/contents/made>

## Purpose of this event

The purpose of the monitoring event is to review the performance of the programme against the education and training standards with the first cohort of pharmacists and to ensure that delivery is consistent with the GPhC accreditation criteria. The monitoring event utilises student feedback and evaluation together with a review of documentation and a meeting with programme representatives. The accreditation period which was provisionally granted at the initial accreditation event is confirmed after a satisfactory monitoring event has taken place.

## Background

Following an accreditation event on 3 June 2016, The University of Coventry was provisionally accredited by the GPhC in September 2016, to provide a programme to train pharmacist independent prescribers, for a period of three years. Accreditation was subject to one condition:

1. The provider must provide a clear process to describe the application procedure that will be used to ensure that all pharmacists accepted on to the programme have met all pre-requisites for entry. This is because the team is not confident from the application documentation provided and the explanations given that there is a clear and robust process in place for review of applications from pharmacists. This is to meet criteria 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4.

The accreditation team identified an area of strength: Service users' feedback which provides additional quality assurance to the pharmacists' learning in practice element of the programme was agreed to be a positive addition to the quality assurance mechanisms in place. Following the event, the provider submitted revised application form and application process document to meet the condition of accreditation and the team agreed that this was now met.

In line with the GPhC's process for accreditation of independent prescribing programmes, an event was scheduled on 6 September 2017 to review the programme's suitability for full accreditation.

## Documentation

Prior to the event, the provider submitted documentation to the GPhC in line with the agreed timescales. The documentation was reviewed by the accreditation team and it was deemed to be satisfactory to provide a basis for discussion.

## The event

The event was held on 6 September 2017 at the GPhC headquarters, London, and comprised a number of meetings between the GPhC accreditation team and staff and students of the prescribing programme.

## Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## Key findings

### Section 1: The programme provider

**The team was satisfied that all four criteria relating to the programme provider continue to be met (See Appendix 2 for criteria)**

As part of the monitoring event, the accreditation team approved the provider's request to allow an increase from two three cohorts of the programme per year at the Coventry site, provided that current maximum student numbers per year are not exceeded.

The accreditation team additionally approved the provider's request to deliver up to an additional three cohorts per year from the University of Coventry's Scarborough Campus, subject to:

- a. Clarification of current staffing and expanded staffing to support the increase in cohorts and student numbers across the two sites.
- b. Receipt of a programme timetable for delivery at the Scarborough campus.
- c. A satisfactory visit by an accreditation team member to view the on-site clinical skills teaching facilities at the Scarborough campus. If clinical skills facilities at the local hospital are to be utilised for the Scarborough-based cohorts, evidence of the formal agreement in place for this arrangement must also be provided, and these facilities will also require a visit by an accreditation panel member.

### Section 2: Pre-requisites for entry

**The team was satisfied that all six criteria relating to the pre-requisites for entry continue to be met. Minor wording amendments are required in relation to one criterion.**

### Section 3: The programme

**The team was satisfied that all eight criteria relating to the programme continue to be met**

### Section 4: Learning in Practice

**The team was satisfied that all five criteria relating to learning in practice continue to be met**

### Section 5: Assessment

**The team was satisfied that all four criteria relating to assessment continue to be met**

### Section 6: Details of Award

**The team was satisfied that the two criteria relating to details of the award continue to be met**

## Appendix 1 - Standing conditions

The following are standing conditions of accreditation and apply to all providers:

1. The record and report include other comments from the team, and providers are required to take all comments into account as part of the accreditation process. The provider must confirm to the GPhC that required amendments have been made.
2. The provider must respond to the definitive version of the record and report within three months of receipt. The summary report, along with the provider's response, will be published on the GPhC's website for the duration of the accreditation period.
3. The provider must seek approval from the GPhC for any substantial change (or proposed change) which is, or has the potential to be, material to the delivery of an accredited course. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. the content, structure or delivery of the accredited programme;
  - b. ownership or management structure of the institution;
  - c. resources and/or funding;
  - d. student numbers and/or admissions policy;
  - e. any existing partnership, licensing or franchise agreement;
  - f. staff associated with the programme.
4. The provider must make students and potential students aware that successful completion of an accredited course is not a guarantee of annotation or of future employment as a pharmacist independent prescriber.
5. The provider must make students and potential students aware of the existence and website address where they can view the GPhC's accreditation reports and the timescales for future accreditations.
6. Whenever required to do so by the GPhC, providers must give such information and assistance as the GPhC may reasonably require in connection with the exercise of its functions. Any information in relation to fulfilment of these standing conditions must be provided in a proactive and timely manner.

## Appendix 2 – Accreditation criteria, learning outcomes and indicative content

GPhC accreditation criteria, learning outcomes and indicative content for pharmacist independent prescribing programmes

The accreditation criteria, learning outcomes and indicative content for pharmacist independent prescribing programmes can be downloaded from the GPhC website at:

<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/approval-courses/accreditation-guidance>