

**Department of Education & Policy**

**Supplementary Prescribing – Approving Courses**

**Executive Summary and Recommendations**

**1. Introduction**

The Department of Health (DH) intends to amend the Prescription Only Medicine Order 1997, and NHS regulations ('National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004 - SI 2004/2694' and the 'National Health Service (Personal Medical Services Agreements) Regulations 2004 – SI 2004/267') in order to allow radiographers, physiotherapists and chiropodists/podiatrists to become supplementary prescribers. The HPC must therefore set up a process for approving Supplementary Prescribing courses, and annotate the Register for those registrants successfully completing such approved courses.

**2. Decision**

The Education and Training Committee is asked to **ratify** the following recommendation from the Approvals Committee at its meeting on 2 February 2005:

That the following criteria are adopted for the approval of Supplementary Prescribing courses:

that the courses should be assessed:

- against the Council's existing Standards of Education and Training (with the exception of SET 1: *Level of qualification for entry to the Register*, which is not applicable since these are post-registration courses) and the Standards of Proficiency;
- using Curriculum Guidance provided by the document 'Outline Curriculum for Training Programmes to prepare Allied Health Professional Supplementary Prescribers' (Department of Health and the National Prescribing Centre, 2004 ); and
- by a Visitor Panel, which includes at least one registrant Visitor who has their name annotated on the Register as a supplementary prescriber. Until such times as supplementary prescribing training is more widely available for the approved groups of health professionals and, therefore, a reasonable pool of so-annotated registrant Visitors exists, then the Visitors Panels will include at least one chiropodist/podiatrist Visitor (who must have local

anaesthetic *and* prescription-only medicine entitlements) or one paramedic registrant Visitor.

### **3. Background information**

#### *3.1 Visitor Panels*

Paramedics, and Chiropodists/Podiatrists with the relevant entitlements, are suggested as the most appropriate registrant Visitors for the initial Visitors Panels because they already have certain legal entitlements and/or prescribing rights, as outlined below:

##### *3.1.1 Paramedics*

Currently paramedics get their prescribing powers from the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997, the Medicines Act and the Misuse of Drugs Act where morphine is concerned. These allow the registered paramedic to administer a range of some 25 drugs and fluids. Also, registered Paramedics are allowed to supply and administer medicines under Patient Group Directions (PGDs).

##### *3.1.2 Chiropodists and Podiatrists*

Registered chiropodists/podiatrists have certain exemptions from the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997. Some chiropodists and podiatrists have completed training in local analgesia and prescription-only medicine (LA and POM). These chiropodists and podiatrists have their entitlements marked on their HPC certificate, and on their entry on the online register. Also, registered chiropodists/podiatrists are allowed to supply and administer medicines under Patient Group Directions (PGDs).

#### *3.2 'Outline Curriculum for Training Programmes to prepare Allied Health Professional Supplementary Prescribers'*

This document is attached as an appendix to this paper, for the Committee's information. It is suggested that the Committee adopt this document as Curriculum Guidance for the purposes of assessing Supplementary Prescribing courses.

The Outline Curriculum document has been developed by a joint initiative undertaken by the Department of Health (DH) and the National Prescribing Centre. The document was written in parallel with the DH and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency consultation, and aims to build on the work undertaken to develop curriculum frameworks for nurse and pharmacist supplementary prescribers. A full list of those involved in compiling the document is available on page 24 of the Outline Curriculum.

#### *3.3 Standards of Proficiency*

At its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 the Education and Training Committee agreed an addition to the Standards of Proficiency to take account of the new legislation. Under the Health Professions Order 2001 any changes to the Standards of Proficiency must be consulted upon. Subject to the results of the current consultation being carried out in this regard, the following will be added to the aforementioned Standards of Proficiency:

*Registrants must:  
know and be able to apply the key concepts which are relevant to safe and  
effective practice as a supplementary prescriber in order to have their name  
annotated on the Register.*

#### **4. Appendix**

‘Outline Curriculum for Training Programmes to prepare Allied Health Professional  
Supplementary Prescribers’ (Department of Health and National Prescribing Centre,  
2004).

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2 February 2005