



Qualifications Support Team (QST): HN pharmacy portfolio

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 24 February 2023 (via Microsoft Teams)

Present:

Ann White	Glasgow Kelvin College
Carol Neilson	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Colin Sinclair	NHS Fife
Jodi Jenkins	External Verifier
Laura Gibson	Qualifications Officer
Laura McClelland	Edinburgh College
Suzanne Thompson	West College Scotland
Susan Roberts	NHS Education for Scotland
Val Findlay	NHS Education for Scotland

Not present:

Afraa Mahmood	Glasgow Kelvin College
Aileen Begley	External Verifier
Angela Cannon	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Jonathan Gillies	Qualifications Manager
Marion Gates	NHS Fife

Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from Jonathan Gillies and Aileen Begley.

1. Revised aseptic units.

Laura Gibson advised the first drafts of both aseptic units have been shared with the working group for feedback, however no feedback has yet been received. It was agreed to extend the deadline for feedback to Monday 13 March.

2. Storage and Use of Medicines (J3JD 33)

Suzanne requested a revision to be made to the Storage and Use of Medicines (J3JD 33) unit. The request is to make minor changes to the wording of the unit to make it clear that only knowledge and understanding is assessed and not skills. The amendments will not impact the Diploma in Pharmacy Services (GR2H 47) as the trainees will still have to demonstrate their skills via the SVQ in Pharmacy Services (GR2C 24). The amendments will help reduce the need to duplicate evidence.

All members discussed the proposed amendments and agreed with these changes.

Laura Gibson advised as Skills for Health are undertaking the Pharmacy NOS review, we will need to wait for this review to be completed before a change request is submitted to GPhC for all changes to

the PDA in Pharmacy Services (GR0N 47), SVQ in Pharmacy Services (GR2C 24) and Diploma in Pharmacy Services (GR2H 47).

3. Access course to the Diploma in Pharmacy Services (GR2H 47)

Val highlighted the need for an access course to the Diploma in Pharmacy Services (GR2H 47). Val advised there is a need to have a consistent approach to an access course across all delivering centres, whether this be a nationally or locally devised course.

Suzanne confirmed West College Scotland currently run an access course, which is at the employer's request. Suzanne advised access to the Diploma in Pharmacy Services (GR2H 47) at SCQF level 7 is SCQF level 5. Their current access course is not equivalent to SCQF level 5, however along with experience working as a pharmacy support worker it gives reassurance that the minimal level of requirements are being met.

Colin confirmed without West College Scotland's access course he would be unable to recruit. Colin also advised that it would be advantageous to have an access course for other health care professionals who are not currently working as pharmacy support workers. Susan agreed and advised this is a wider issue and the need for different pathways for all health care professionals is welcomed.

Laura Gibson advised in order to have consistency across centres, the content of the access course would need to be identified. Laura Gibson confirmed if the access course was to be nationally devised by SQA a business case would need to be developed. If the access course was to be locally devised this could offer centres their own flexibility.

Val confirmed she would take this back to NPTGS to discuss the requirements.

4. Session 2023-24

Laura Gibson highlighted the planned HNVQ engagement activity for session 2023-24 to produce an evidence base which will in turn support any decisions SQA take around delivery and assessment models for HNVQ provision for session 2023-24 onwards. Laura Gibson advised the activity will include surveys for practitioners and learners at delivering centres, internal and external focus groups to gather more in-depth feedback and research activities.

The project is expected to be completed by the end March 2023.

Actions

- Laura Gibson to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting.

Action grid

Action	Date completed
Feedback for the revised aseptic unit's deadline extended to 13 March 2023. (Aseptic working group only)	
Laura Gibson to submit a change request GPhC for all changes to Storage and Use of Medicines (J3JD 33), once Skills for Health NOS review complete.	

Val to discuss the requirements of the access course to the Diploma in Pharmacy Services (GR2H 47) with NPTGS.	
--	--

Laura Gibson to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting	
--	--