

Accreditation of New Zealand Pharmacy Education Programmes

Relevance to HPCAA

Part 6, section 118 (a)

1. To prescribe the qualifications required for scopes of practice within the profession, and, for that purpose, to accredit and monitor educational institutions and degrees, courses of studies, or programmes.

Policy Statement

2. Pharmacy education programmes in New Zealand lead to qualification in one of three scopes of practice. The Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (the Council) accredits and monitors education providers and programmes for the purpose of assuring the public that qualifications are fit for the purpose of protecting health and safety of the public. It is the expectation of the Council that New Zealand pharmacy education programmes prepare pharmacists to practise within their scope in accordance with the Competence Standards for the Pharmacy Profession. It is also expected that programmes adapt to reflect new knowledge and changes to the practice of pharmacy.

Rationale

3. The HPCA Act places the responsibility for the accreditation of programmes and institutions with the Council. The Council supports trans-Tasman alignment in the education and training of pharmacists. A collaborative relationship is maintained with the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) for this purpose. APC is the provider of accreditation evaluation services¹ to the Council, subject to contractual arrangements, and is referred to as such in the processes associated with this policy. The processes for accreditation and monitoring of New Zealand pharmacy programmes mirror, or are derived from,² those of the APC.

Implementation

4. New education programmes
5. New education programmes that propose to qualify a pharmacist in a gazetted scope of practice may be proposed by providers from time to time.
6. Providers must make a request to the Council to consider accreditation of the programme³.

¹ Accreditation evaluation services include assessment against accreditation standards, recommendations to the Council and monitoring activities, as agreed with the Council.

² By agreement

³ Accreditation of a programme includes accreditation of the institution or other organisation as suitable to provide the programme.

7. After the Council agrees that a programme may be considered for accreditation, it will arrange for initial assessment and an accreditation recommendation by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC).
8. Initial accreditation, with or without conditions, may be awarded by the Council.
9. After accreditation is awarded, the provider is subject to monitoring of its progress towards meeting conditions or other requirements. The process is outlined in *Processes for Initial Accreditation of New Zealand Pharmacy Education Programmes*.

Re-accreditation and monitoring

10. Subsequent to initial accreditation, an educational programme will be monitored and re-assessed by the APC against accreditation standards at intervals determined by the Council. The process is outlined in *Processes for Monitoring and Re- accreditation of a New Zealand Pharmacy Education Programme*.

Appeal of decisions made by the Council under this policy

11. Programme providers may appeal accreditation and re-accreditation decisions made by the Council. The Council reserves the right to charge providers for undertaking consideration of an appeal.

Effective date

12. Effective: 1 July 2015.