

Education and Training Committee, 19 November 2015

Consultation on renaming the 'Local anaesthetics' and 'Prescription only medicines' annotations for chiropodists / podiatrists

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Chiropodists / podiatrists who have undertaken approved training are annotated on the Register to indicate their ability to sell or supply (the 'prescription only medicines' annotation) or administer (the 'local anaesthetics' annotation) certain medicines from exemption lists in medicines legislation.

We have received feedback that the way in which these annotations are labelled is out of date and confusing for registrants and others. The exemption list that relates to the 'local anaesthetics' annotation now includes other medicines and the medicines on both lists are 'prescription only'.

The Executive is proposing to rename the annotations to more closely reflect both exemptions in medicines legislation. A draft consultation document to seek the views of stakeholders on this change is attached.

A consultation of at least eight weeks is proposed. This will mean that the consultation can take place at the same time as the consultation on standards for orthoptist exemptions (which will commence at the appropriate point once confirmation of ministerial approval has been received). A shorter consultation is also appropriate in this case because of the relatively small range of stakeholders who would be affected by the proposed changes and because the proposals have been precipitated by stakeholder feedback.

Decision

The Education and Training Committee is invited to agree and recommend to the Council:

- the text of the consultation document (subject to minor editing amendments and formal legal scrutiny); and
- a consultation period of at least eight weeks.

Background information

We are not required in the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 to consult on this change. However, the Executive has proposed to do so given that the annotations in their current form have been in place under the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine (CPSM) and the HCPC for some years. If the changes were agreed and implemented, they would be supported by a communications plan.

Resource implications

Resource implications include arranging the consultation and analysing the responses. These implications have been / will be accounted for in Policy and Standards Department and planning for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Financial implications

The financial implications include the costs of amending systems to rename the annotations. These changes can be made at the same time as those already necessary to prepare for the proposed extension of exemptions and prescribing rights to other professions. These implications are therefore already accounted for in major project budgeting.

Appendices

None

Date of paper

6 November 2015

Consultation on renaming the ‘Local anaesthetics’ and ‘Prescription only medicines’ annotations for chiropodists / podiatrists

1. Introduction

- 1.1 We are the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). This consultation seeks the views of stakeholders on proposals to rename the ‘local anaesthetics’ and ‘prescription only medicines’ annotations which appear on our Register for chiropodists / podiatrists who have undertaken appropriate training.
- 1.2 The way in which these annotations are currently described is out of date with changes in medicines legislation, including changes to the lists of medicines that chiropodists / podiatrists who are annotated on our Register are able to sell, supply and/or administer. We have also received some feedback that the wording of the existing annotations has caused confusion about the medicines that registrants are able to access and use.
- 1.3 We are proposing that each of the annotations should be renamed as follows.
- The ‘prescription only medicines’ annotation would become ‘Medicines – sale / supply’.
 - The ‘local anaesthetics’ annotation would become ‘Medicines – administration’.
- 1.4 The consultation runs from **x** to **x**.

About us

- 1.5 We are a regulator and were set up to protect the public. To do this, we keep a register of professionals who meet our standards for their professional skills and behaviour. Individuals on our register are called ‘registrants’.
- 1.6 We currently regulate 16 professions.
- Arts therapists
 - Biomedical scientists
 - Chiropodists / podiatrists
 - Clinical scientists
 - Dietitians
 - Hearing aid dispensers
 - Occupational therapists

- Operating department practitioners
- Orthoptists
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapists
- Practitioner psychologists
- Prosthetists / orthotists
- Radiographers
- Social workers in England
- Speech and language therapists

How to respond to the consultation

1.7 We would welcome your response to the consultation. The consultation questions are given below, but we would welcome your comments on any related issue.

Q1. Do you agree with our proposal to rename the 'prescription only medicines' annotation to read: 'Medicines – sale / supply'. If not, why not?

Q2. Do you agree with our proposal to rename the 'local anaesthetics' annotation to read: 'Medicines – administration'. If not, why not?

1.8 You can respond to this consultation in the following ways.

- By completing our easy-to-use online survey:
[link will appear here]
- By emailing us at: consultation@hcpc-uk.org.
- By writing to us at the following address.

Policy and Standards Department
Health and Care Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU
Fax: +44(0)20 7820 9684

1.9 Please note that we do not normally accept responses by telephone or in person. We normally ask that consultation responses are made in writing. However, if you are unable to respond in writing, please contact us on +44(0)20 7840 9815 to discuss any reasonable adjustments that would help you to respond.

1.10 Please complete the online survey or send us your response by **x**.

- 1.11 **Please contact us to request a copy of this document in Welsh or in an alternative format.**
- 1.12 Once the consultation period is completed, we will analyse the responses we receive. We will then publish a document which summarises the comments we received and explains the decisions we have taken as a result. This will be published on our website.

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2. Our proposals

2.1 This section outlines more about our proposals.

Sale, supply and administration of medicines by chiropractors / podiatrists

2.2 The ability of health professionals to sell, supply and administer prescription-only medicines to patients is governed by the Medicines Act 1968 and subsequent regulations, including the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 which consolidated many previous enactments.¹

2.3 In medicines legislation, exemptions allow some health professional groups to sell, supply and/or administer certain listed prescription only medicines to patients, without the need for a prescription from a doctor or another independent prescriber.

2.4 There are two such exemptions for chiropractors / podiatrists registered with the HCPC who have undertaken appropriate training.

Sale / supply. There is an exemption list of specified prescription only medicines that can be sold or supplied. Chiropractors / podiatrists who have completed appropriate training are marked or 'annotated' on the HCPC Register to indicate that they are legally able to sell or supply these medicines. The annotation is labelled 'prescription only medicines'.²

Administration. There is an exemption list of specified prescription only medicines that can be administered by injection (parenterally). Chiropractors / podiatrists who have completed appropriate training are annotated on the HCPC Register to indicate that they are legally able to administer these medicines. This annotation is labelled 'local anaesthetics'.³

2.5 Education and training in the sale, supply and administration of medicines on the exemption lists is now an integral part of pre-registration education and training leading to eligibility to apply for registration with us as a chiropractor / podiatrist. The skills required for this are described in our standards of proficiency for the profession. This means that all new graduates from approved programmes will become registered with us with both the "prescription only medicines' and 'local anaesthetics' annotations. We also approve a small number of post-registration programmes which allow existing registrants who do not have one or more of the annotations to gain them.

¹ Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/1916/pdfs/ukxi_20121916_en.pdf

² The exemptions for chiropractors and podiatrists for sale / supply are set out in Parts 1 and 4 of Schedule 17 to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

³ The exemptions for chiropractors and podiatrists for administration are set out in Part 3 of Schedule 17 to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

Renaming the annotations

- 2.6 The 'local anaesthetics' annotation when it was first introduced was described in this way because the exemption list of medicines it related to only included certain local anaesthetics. Over time, however, other medicines have been added to this list, including some steroids. The description of the annotation is therefore out of keeping with the medicines it relates to. We have received feedback that the way in which the annotation is described has caused confusion – both for registrants in understanding the medicines they are able to access and use, and for others, such as pharmacists, who are supplying those medicines.
- 2.7 We have received feedback that the 'prescription only medicines' annotation is also confusing, because all the medicines on both exemption lists are prescription only medicines.
- 2.8 In light of this feedback, we are proposing to rename the annotations to more closely reflect the exemptions as set out in the Human Medicines Regulations 2012. In making our proposals, we wanted to make sure that the description of the annotation would be as easy to understand as possible by members of the public searching for chiropodists / podiatrists via our online register.
- 2.9 We are proposing the following.
- The 'prescription only medicines' annotation will be renamed 'Medicines – sale / supply'.
 - The 'local anaesthetics' annotation will be renamed 'Medicines – administration'.
- 2.10 We are consulting on these proposals because we recognise that these annotations have been in place in their current form for some time and therefore for some stakeholders renaming them might represent a significant change.

Consultation questions

Q1. Do you agree with our proposal to rename the 'prescription only medicines' annotation to read: 'Medicines – sale / supply'. If not, why not?

Q2. Do you agree with our proposal to rename the 'local anaesthetics' annotation to read: 'Medicines – administration'. If not, why not?

Implementing the proposed annotations

- 2.11 If agreed, we anticipate that the renamed annotations would be implemented sometime later in 2016. The exact timing of this will be dependent on parallel work to prepare for the proposed extension of exemptions and prescribing to other HCPC regulated professions and related necessary work to develop our Information Technology systems to support these changes.
- 2.12 The change would be supported by communication activities with stakeholders. Our online register already includes information for members of the public about the annotations which appear on our register. This includes links to the lists of medicines that relate to both of these annotations. This information would be updated as necessary.⁴
- 2.13 We would also plan to use the same naming convention to describe any other annotations which relate to medicines exemptions.

⁴ <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/search-results/additional-entitlements/>