

Certificate of Competence in Medicines Use Review

Background

Under the new community pharmacy contractual framework for England and Wales, pharmacists intending to provide the Medicines Use Review and Prescription Intervention advanced service (MUR service) will have to successfully complete an assessment organised by a Higher Education Institution (HEI). The School of Pharmacy is able to offer an assessment for the MUR service, with the award of Certificate of Competence in Medicines Use Review for successful completion.

The Assessment

The School of Pharmacy recognises that some pharmacists who have been out of higher education for some time may feel apprehensive about undertaking a formal assessment, whilst others may feel unsure about their skills. This assessment has therefore been designed to help pharmacists to feel confident in their ability to provide the MUR service and to encourage the public to feel confident in the pharmacist.

This assessment will give pharmacists the practical experience necessary to practice and demonstrate their skills, making sure they are familiar with the appropriate paperwork, documentation and time management needed to provide this advanced service.

Pharmacists will be asked to submit a portfolio as written evidence of their competence. The competency framework for MUR services - NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework from the Department of Health will be used as the criterion for marking. The pharmacist will be expected to clearly demonstrate knowledge, understanding and application of the competencies through the submission of written evidence in the portfolio.

The **portfolio** will consist of various elements for assessment: -

Case Study - The School of Pharmacy will provide a case study, which will allow the pharmacist to demonstrate in their response his/her knowledge and understanding of the competencies.

MUR in Practice - The pharmacist, using the NHS MUR template, should submit a minimum of two personally conducted MURs with patients. This will allow the pharmacist to demonstrate his/her competencies through written evidence recorded on the NHS MUR template. The pharmacist may submit further reviews as s/he sees fit to demonstrate the full range of competencies.

The pharmacist should attach to each MUR the relevant anonymised copy of a prescription/ repeat half or patient medication record. The pharmacist will also be asked to complete a report on two MURs submitted in the portfolio. A template is provided for the report with appropriate headings and sections to be completed. This ensures that the pharmacist is able to demonstrate the full range of competencies for the assessment.

Competence Grid - The pharmacist will have to reference their written work, in order to demonstrate clearly where the evidence of a competence has been achieved in the MUR/report/case study. A tick box grid will be provided for the pharmacist to ensure all competencies are demonstrated.

Practical aspects - For the School of Pharmacy assessment it is not necessary to carry out the MUR in accredited premises. However, the patient's privacy is important so the MUR should be conducted in a place where the pharmacist and patient can sit and not be overheard.

Submitting work

The pharmacist may submit the portfolio at any time up to a year from registering with the University.

The work may be handwritten or typed, but should reflect the style the pharmacist intends to use in the service. (Handwriting will be assessed for legibility). The pharmacist will be required to re-register for the assessment and pay an additional assessment fee if the portfolio is not submitted within the year.

Accreditation

The portfolio will be marked by the School of Pharmacy and submitted to an Accreditation Board. The assessment will be accredited with either a pass or a fail. The pharmacist will be awarded the Certificate of Competence in Medicines Use Review if s/he successfully completes the assessment.

If the pharmacist fails the assessment, s/he will be requested to re-submit course work as advised by the Accreditation Board. A re-submission fee will be charged. A review of marking procedures has enabled us to provide a more speedy response to submissions. In general we aim to submit results to the Accreditation Board once a month, during the last week of any month. This means calendar submission deadlines have been removed and that most results, certainly if submissions are received in the first two weeks of a month, will be posted within a month. We aim to get results to pharmacists normally within one to two months maximum. Pharmacists will be notified by post no later than one week after the Accreditation Board has met.

Quality Assurance

The assessment has been developed in line with University guidance and procedures.

The University takes the most serious view of academic misconduct. This includes plagiarism of others' work. This assessment has been designed to reduce the risk of plagiarism either intentionally or unintentionally by participating pharmacists.

Should a pharmacist wish to make a complaint against the University about the assessment process there is a Student Complaint Procedure in place.

Fees

The current fees (January 2007) are:

Assessment - £60 Re-submission - £35 Re-registration - £30 Re-issue Certificate - £15

Applications

Application forms can be requested from Marina Sims, CIPPET, University of Reading, AMS Building, PO Box 228, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AJ. Once completed, please post it back along with a cheque made payable to "University of Reading".

Email: g.m.sims@reading.ac.uk

Tel/Answer phone: 0118 378 4636