

Accreditation of Pharmacists with Special Interests

Introduction

A national framework for implementing Pharmacists with Special Interests (PhwSIs) was published by the Department of Health in September 2006, and includes a definition, guidance on how PhwSI services can be put in place, a competency framework for PhwSIs and examples of current service models similar to PhwSI. Both PhwSIs and the services they work within must be accredited, and updated national guidance on commissioning and accreditation of PhwSIs and GPwSIs has now also been published by the Department of Health.

What do the new publications include?

These publications are part of a new suite of publications titled 'Implementing care closer to home – providing convenient, quality care' and includes:

- Part 1: Introduction to commissioning more specialised care closer to home
- Part 2: Step by Step guide to commissioning more specialised care delivered by accredited Practitioners with Special Interests in community settings
- Part 3: The Accreditation of GPs and Pharmacists with Special Interests

A range of competency based specialty specific guidance is also currently being refreshed, and will be published on both Department of Health and Primary Care Contracting (PCC) websites shortly.

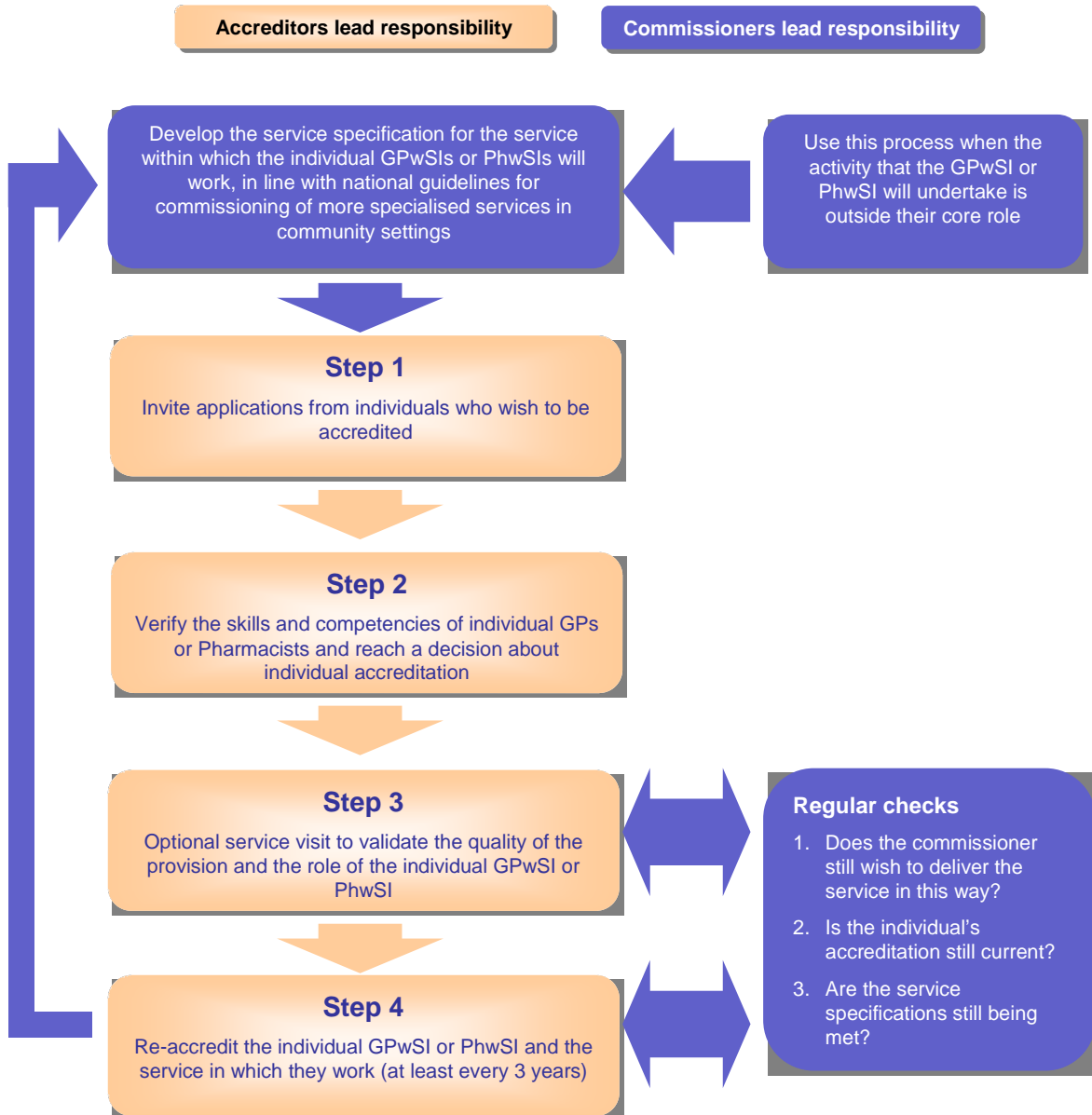
How will PhwSIs be accredited?

A summary of the accreditation process for both PhwSIs and GPwSIs is shown below, and local health communities will decide how this is implemented. PhwSIs will be expected to demonstrate competencies in line with the PhwSI competency framework and any related specialty-specific guidelines. The new publication describes in detail how this process should be undertaken.

This may take the form of a portfolio of evidence including:

- Evidence of appropriate education, training, development and motivation
- A summary of the supervised clinical work they have completed
- A structured reference from an objective, relevant and independent clinician to confirm that the applicant is competent to take on the new role
- Evidence of competence in their core role, and how this will be protected when they take on the new role
- Evidence of audits undertaken and other relevant practice development

Overview of accreditors and commissioners lead responsibilities



Where can I find out more about this?

- The new publications are available at <http://www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/173.php> and you can also book a place at one of the regional launch events (from late April to end of May 07) at this site
- The PhwSI national framework and a range of resources to support implementation are available at: www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/119.php
These resources include:
 - The PhwSI competency framework
 - A tool to help practitioners explore the potential this model might offer for them
 - Presentations and feedback summary from launch events
 - Links to other relevant resources such as specialty guidance
- By emailing the national development lead, beth.taylor@southwarkpct.nhs.uk