

Feedback from the June 2024 registration assessment sitting

About this document

This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the June 2024 registration assessment. It is from the Board of Assessors, the body that sets and moderates the registration assessment. Many of the areas of feedback have been highlighted previously but candidate performance remains low in these areas.

The registration assessment framework

All questions in the registration assessment are derived from the assessment framework. The different outcomes have different weighting and trainee pharmacists should use the framework as the basis for preparation. Many questions in the assessment concern patients who have co-morbidities, and these questions are mapped across multiple parts of the framework. The June 2024 assessment mapped to the learning outcomes as follows:

- 67% of the questions mapped to high weighted outcomes
- 25% of the questions mapped to medium weighted outcomes
- 8% of the questions mapped to low weighted outcomes

Example questions

Trainee pharmacists should use the example questions available via the GPhC website to understand the style and format of questions and become familiar with the onscreen platform used to deliver the assessment. Please note, the Board of Assessors do not endorse any other revision questions. These may be of a different content and style to those that feature in the registration assessment.

Part 1

In the June 2024 sitting, the part 1 passing score was 25 marks out of a possible 40. In total, 81.09% of trainee pharmacists achieved this.

All the questions in part 1 of the registration assessment reflect scenarios that could be encountered when practising as a pharmacist. Underpinning pharmacy knowledge and understanding will be required to answer some questions. When reviewing their answers, trainee pharmacists should check that each answer is practical and realistic as this will help identify incorrect answers.

Trainee pharmacists are expected to apply their underpinning knowledge and round at appropriate stages in a pharmacy calculation. In some scenarios, the rounding should occur at the end of the calculation, but in other scenarios rounding should occur earlier in the calculation. For example, when calculating the total amount of a medicine that should be supplied, rounding should occur for an individual dose before calculating a final amount.

Candidates should consider the dosage form and pharmaceutical principles when calculating doses and quantities to supply. For example, patients cannot take part of a capsule and ampoules are single use only. Candidates are expected to apply their underpinning knowledge to recognise when it is more appropriate to round up or round down.

When necessary, instructions are provided in the question about rounding for the final inputted answer. Often in the June 2024 sitting, trainee pharmacists did not follow specific rounding instructions or failed to apply knowledge of the practicalities of providing a specific dose. Examples of specific information include:

- round your answer up to the nearest pound
- give your answer to one decimal place
- give your answer to the nearest 0.05mL
- give your answer to the nearest multiple of 5mL
- round your answer up to the nearest 15mg for ease of administration
- the pre-filled syringe comes with 2.5mg graduation markings

Candidates did not perform well in questions that included extracts from resources requiring them to find information and then apply it. Candidates are expected to be familiar with the structure of resources commonly used in practice so that they can find and apply all the required information efficiently. Candidates should know the layout of an SmPC and go directly to the relevant section rather than attempting to read the entire document. A 'find in document' function as well as other navigation tools to use on PDFs that are attached to questions are available in the PDF viewer. Candidates should become familiar with using **functions in the PDF viewer** in advance of their sitting.

Part 2

In the June 2024 sitting, the part 2 passing score was 83 marks out of a possible 120. In total, 85.23% of trainee pharmacists achieved this.

The following list highlights topics answered less well and outlines expectations:

- Trainee pharmacists should know that systemic corticosteroids can be used in different conditions. The dosage and duration will depend on the condition being treated. Adverse effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the minimum period. Trainee pharmacists should know the treatment cessation guidance for systemic corticosteroids in different scenarios.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to understand how to treat acute and chronic asthma in both adults and children, including stepping up and stepping down care.
- Trainee pharmacists should be able to provide appropriate advice and guidance regarding the safe and effective use of high-risk drugs and the prevention of drug-induced side-effects.

- Trainee pharmacists should know the different insulin types and their time action profiles. They should be able to interpret trends in blood glucose levels and adjust insulin doses and timing if there are issues such as hypo- or hyper-glycaemia.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to understand how to treat cardiovascular conditions. They should be able to advise on the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease, including appropriate antiplatelet therapy.
- Trainee pharmacists should be able to appropriately respond to medical emergencies that may present in the pharmacy.
- Trainee pharmacists should be able to identify different pain categories (e.g., musculoskeletal, neuropathic) and be able to advise on their management taking into account the patient's characteristics and concomitant treatment.
- Trainee pharmacists should know that breastfeeding is an important public health priority. They should be able to advise on the use of medicines in breastfeeding including the treatment of patients with conditions that frequently present in the pharmacy. Trainee pharmacists should know which analgesics are suitable for use in breastfeeding.
- Trainee pharmacists should know the available treatments for the variety of symptoms associated with menopause (e.g., vasomotor symptoms, urogenital symptoms). In particular, the different types of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and routes of administration.