

# Feedback from the November 2024 registration assessment sitting

## About this document

This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the November 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 November 2024 assessment mapped to the learning outcomes as follows:

- 69% of the questions mapped to high weighted outcomes
- 25% of the questions mapped to medium weighted outcomes
- 6% 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. They should become familiar with the onscreen platform used to deliver the assessment and its functionality. 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 November 2024 sitting, the part 1 passing score was 28 marks out of a possible 40. In total, 71% 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.

Trainee pharmacists should consider the dosage form and pharmaceutical principles when calculating doses and quantities to supply. For example, ampoules are single use only.

Trainee pharmacists did not read the question carefully resulting in an incorrect answer. For example, where a question asked for the volume per dose, they provided the volume per day.

Trainee pharmacists are expected to apply their underpinning knowledge to recognise when it is more appropriate to round up or round down. Also, trainee pharmacists did not follow specific rounding instructions stated in the question or failed to apply knowledge of the practicalities of providing a specific dose. When necessary, instructions are provided in the question about rounding for the final inputted answer.

Examples of rounding instructions are listed below:

- give your answer to one decimal place
- give your answer to the nearest mL
- give your answer to the nearest pound
- give your answer to the nearest whole number

Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to apply pharmaceutical principles to the preparation of medicines. For example, usage of displacement volumes and values. They should understand the different methods of injectable administration (e.g., IV bolus, IV infusion). Trainee pharmacists should understand pharmacokinetic parameters (e.g., half-life).

When calculating IV infusion rates, trainee pharmacists should consider all the relevant information that is provided in the question such as the duration of the infusion, the maximum concentration, and the maximum rate of infusion.

## Part 2

In the November 2024 sitting, the part 2 passing score was 82 marks out of a possible 120. In total, 70% of trainee pharmacists achieved this.

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

- 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 know the different therapeutic indications for anticoagulation and appropriate regimens.
- Trainee pharmacists should understand that interactions can develop through pharmacodynamic or pharmacokinetic mechanisms. They should know the medicines that induce or inhibit hepatic enzyme activity. Trainee pharmacists should be able to identify clinically significant drug interactions, understand the consequence of the interaction and take action to protect patients from avoidable harm.
- Trainee pharmacists should know the 'most likely' adverse effects of prescribed medicines and how to manage any common adverse effects a patient experiences.

- Trainee pharmacists should be able to provide appropriate advice and guidance regarding the safe and effective use of medicines. They should be up to date with MHRA/CHM advice and important safety information to prevent harm and improve patient safety.
- Trainee pharmacists should know the different insulin preparations and their time action profiles. They should be able to advise on the safe administration of insulin to ensure the correct dose is delivered.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to understand how to treat common respiratory conditions (e.g., asthma and COPD). They should know the different classes of inhaled therapies and pharmacological management. In relation to asthma, they should know 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 advise on the management of common minor ailments that present in the pharmacy. They should be able to provide general advice and evidence-based treatment if appropriate. In some scenarios, treatment may not be required, and the person can be reassured that the condition is self-limiting. Trainee pharmacists should be able to give safety-netting advice to patients.
- Trainee pharmacists should be able to identify different pain categories (e.g., musculoskeletal, neuropathic) and be able to advise on their management considering the clinical scenario.
- Trainee pharmacists 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. For example, they should know which analgesics are suitable for use in breastfeeding.
- Trainee pharmacists should understand the principles of evidence-based medicine. For example, they should be able to interpret the number needed to treat or harm.
- Trainee pharmacists 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. They should know the layout of an SmPC and go directly to the relevant section rather than attempting to read the entire document.