

Guidance for unsuccessful candidates in the November 2024 registration assessment

About this document

We realise that not passing this sitting of the registration assessment will be very disappointing for you and that you may need some time to reflect before you decide on your next steps.

This document gives you information and guidance which you may find useful if you have been unsuccessful in the registration assessment.

You can find out more about the registration assessment in Section 5 of the [GPhC Foundation Training manual](#) and the [November 2024 registration assessment webpage](#) on the main GPhC website.

1. Candidate results

You will receive the outcome of the sitting via myGPhC, informing you of your registration assessment results. It will tell you:

- the pass mark for part 1 and part 2 of your sitting of the assessment, and
- the marks you achieved in part 1 and part 2 of your sitting.

To pass the registration assessment, you must achieve the pass mark in both parts in one sitting.

We will not issue any hard copy results by posted letter.

2. How we award marks

Each sitting of the registration assessment has two parts.

There are 40 calculation questions in the part one paper and 120 questions (90 single-best-answer questions and 30 extended-matching questions) in the part two paper.

The Board of Assessors may remove questions after the assessment – for example, because of a recent change in guidance or legislation. This means that the total marks available for a part may be less than 40 for the part one paper, and less than 120 for part two. If questions are removed, the pass mark for that part is adjusted accordingly.

Marking individual answers

Each correct answer is awarded one mark and each incorrect answer is awarded zero marks.

We do not use negative marking – that is, marks are not taken away for incorrect answers.

Marking each part of the assessment

The marks for correct part one answers are added together to provide your part one mark, and the marks for correct part two answers are added together to provide your part two mark.

Passing the assessment

Each part of the assessment has a separate pass mark. This may vary between sittings depending on the difficulty of the questions in that sitting. This variable pass mark means that the standard required to pass is kept the same for all candidates across different sittings.

To pass the registration assessment you must:

- achieve the pass mark or greater in part one; and
- achieve the pass mark or greater in part two.

Marks cannot be compensated between parts – high achievement in one part does not balance out lower achievement in another part. Marks cannot be transferred between sittings.

3. Quality assurance of candidates' marks

There are processes in place for checking of candidates' answers and the marks awarded. We are confident that these are robust, and that answers have been recorded and interpreted accurately, so we **do not offer re-marking**. Results are final and we will not carry out any further review of individual marks.

You can **find out more about how answers are marked and how results are awarded** on the [registration assessment page](#) of the GPhC website.

4. Feedback from this sitting

We would strongly encourage you to read the feedback following candidate performance from this sitting. This may help you to know what areas to focus on when preparing for future assessment sittings.

There is also feedback available on our website for the sittings in 2022 and 2023.

You can find the feedback on the [November sitting webpage](#) under the *preparing to sit the assessment* section.

We do not provide individual feedback or breakdowns of answers to any candidate.

5. Appealing your assessment result

Your right to appeal against an unsuccessful result is explained in [section 10 of the registration assessment regulations](#).

Grounds for appeal

We will consider an appeal request if it meets either one of the following grounds:

1. **Procedural grounds** - when you believe a registration assessment procedure was not correctly applied by the GPhC.

2. **Exceptional circumstances** – there was a situation unique to you, which may have affected your performance during a sitting, but which you did not know about, and could not have known about, before or during the sitting.

Appeals and nullification

Important: you cannot appeal against an unsuccessful result if you could have asked for your assessment attempt to be ‘nullified’ for the same reason.

Under **section 6 of the registration assessment regulations**, you can ask for an attempt to be considered for a nullification if, for example, you become ill during an assessment sitting. In effect, this means the sitting is treated as if it had never happened, and it does not count towards your number of available attempts at the assessment. If you do appeal in this situation, the GPhC will refuse your appeal.

If you submitted a nullification request and it was rejected, you can submit an appeal but only if you are appealing your result for a different reason.

Appeals and applying for next assessment sitting

We encourage all candidates to send in their appeal documentation at the earliest opportunity, so that we can provide an outcome in good time before the next sitting.

If you are planning to sit your second or third attempt at the next sitting, you should continue to prepare and to apply in the normal way, even if you do not know the outcome of your appeal by the time you apply. Please remember to always apply for the assessment itself, and any adjustments, by the deadline specified on the key dates page. Having an appeal or a nullification upheld is a separate process to applying for the assessment.

If you have failed all three attempts, you must wait for your outcome of your appeal before you can apply for the next sitting.

Appeal outcomes

There are only two outcomes to an appeal.

1. The appeal is not upheld - the fail result stands and the candidate is deemed unsuccessful in that attempt at the registration assessment.
2. The appeal is upheld - the attempt is nullified and does not count towards the number of available attempts at the assessment.

There are no other appeal outcomes.

It may take some time to deal with your appeal, depending on how complicated it is. Please be aware there is no set timeframe as to when you will receive a decision. Once the panel have made a decision about your appeal, we will write to you with the outcome. We will include any further steps in your outcome letter.

If your appeal is upheld, this does not automatically mean that your time limit to apply for registration will be extended.

Submitting an appeal

If you think you may have valid grounds for an appeal, you must:

1. Complete an appeal form available on the [dedicated sitting page](#) and collect together and scan any evidence you have to support your request. Read the guidance available with the form to find out more about the evidence you may want to submit.
2. Send your appeal form and supporting evidence by email to regexam@pharmacyregulation.org by **5pm on Tuesday 7 January 2025**. We will not accept appeals by any other method.

We will only consider an appeal submitted after the deadline under certain circumstances. Read [section 10.9 in the registration assessment regulations](#) to find out when we consider a late appeal.

Appeals submitted after the deadline about a procedural error that were known about beforehand, and that impacted your performance on the day, will not be considered.

6. Sitting the assessment again

The next assessment sitting is on **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

Information about eligibility, entry deadlines and how to apply for the Summer 2025 sitting will be available from February 2025.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you submit your application by the deadline dates given.

Applying for a reasonable adjustment for sittings in 2025

If you have previously been granted an adjustment that was approved for all sittings up until you reach your registration date limit, you do not need to submit a new application to receive this adjustment at this sitting.

If you want to request an additional or different adjustment, you will need to submit a new request.

Our guidance and application form is now available on [our reasonable adjustments webpage](#). Make sure you have read and followed the guidance correctly before submitting the form.

We recommend you start your application as early as possible, so that you have all the evidence and information for the assessment panel to consider your request.

Therefore, we encourage you to contact your healthcare professional in good time before the deadline as we understand it can be difficult to get an appointment and for them to be available to complete the form.

If you submit an incomplete application, this could result in your request being rejected due to it not being completed as per the guidance.

The deadline for submitting reasonable adjustment application form for the June 2025 sitting is **5pm on Monday 24 February 2025**.

You can ask us any questions you may have in advance of the deadline.

You may also want to read the page on [Pharmacist Support website](#) regarding reasonable adjustments for the registration assessment.

7. Registration applications

If you submitted your registration application in advance of receiving your results, and it was provisionally approved before you failed the registration assessment, your application will be terminated. If you wish to sit the assessment and register in 2025, you will need to reapply and start a new application, including paying the application fee again.

We do not offer refunds on application fees, as these cover the costs of processing the application.

Please make sure your documents are valid.

Please **read the application guidance** for more information about registration applications.

8. Help and support

We realise that being unsuccessful at the registration assessment will be very disappointing, and that you may need some time to come to terms with the result.

If you have not already done so, you may want to speak to your employer about the support they may be able to offer.

There may be other roles that you could potentially work in across the pharmacy sector if you have not been successful, and whilst you wait for the next sitting.

There are organisations that can help and support you, both personally and professionally, to decide on your next steps. We have listed some of these below, but you may also find more sources of help and support locally.

British Pharmaceutical Students Association (BPSA)

The BPSA supports foundation trainees through their graduate office – you can get in touch via email at graduateofficer@bpsa.co.uk, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheBPSA or on X at [@BPSA](https://twitter.com/BPSA).

Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE)

The CPPE provides educational solutions for the NHS pharmacy workforce across England to maximise its contribution to improving patient care.

NHSE (WT&E) offers learning support to trainees in England.

NHS Education for Scotland (NES)

NHS Education for Scotland offers learning support to trainee pharmacists in Scotland and may be able to offer you educational support to the next GPhC registration assessment sitting if you have been training or working as a provisionally registered pharmacist in Scotland. Contact them by email at nes.ftypharmacy@nhs.scot

Health Education and Improvement Wales

Health Education and Improvement Wales offers learning support to trainees and provisional registrants in Wales.

The Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA)

The PDA is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to act upon and support the needs of individual pharmacists, including trainees and provisional registrants.

Contact them by email at enquiries@the-pda.org , or phone on **0121 694 7000**.

Pharmacist Support

Pharmacist Support is the pharmacist profession's independent charity. **Find out how they can help you on their dedicated registration assessment webpage.**

Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)

The RPS offers support for you during your training.

Third time sitters

We do understand that not being able to meet our requirements for registration can be an upsetting and difficult time.

There are other career options where you can make use of your pharmacy degree but do not require for you to be registered as a pharmacist.

For alternative advice on career pathways, you may wish to speak to:

- Your university
- Designated Supervisor
- A specialist careers counsellor
- Citizens Advice Bureau

Pharmacist Support also have a factsheet available for pharmacy graduates.