

# Feedback from the June 2025 Common Registration Assessment sitting

## About this document

This document presents feedback based on trainee pharmacist performance in the June 2025 Common Registration Assessment (CRA). It has been prepared by the Board of Assessors, the body responsible for setting and moderating the CRA. While many of the highlighted areas have been raised in previous assessments, performance remains low in these areas.

## The CRA framework

All questions in the CRA are derived from the assessment framework, which outlines the expected learning outcomes and their respective weightings. Trainee pharmacists should use the framework as the basis for preparation. Many questions in the assessment concern patients who have comorbidities, and these questions are mapped across multiple parts of the framework.

The June 2025 assessment mapped to the learning outcomes as follows:

- 67.1% of the questions mapped to high weighted outcomes
- 27.1% of the questions mapped to medium weighted outcomes
- 5.8% 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. They should become familiar with the onscreen platform used to deliver the assessment and its functionality. Please note, the Board do not endorse any other questions. These may be of a different content and style to those that feature in the CRA. Your pharmacy education and foundation training year are the best preparation.

## Misconduct

Misconduct allegations were investigated and proceeded to principal hearing under the CRA regulations for sittings in 2025. Trainee pharmacists should read the assessment regulations in advance to ensure compliance. If trainee pharmacists have any concerns regarding other trainees during an assessment, they are encouraged to raise these concerns with the invigilators.

## Part 1

In the June 2025 sitting, the part 1 passing score was **24** marks out of a possible 40. In total, **84%** of trainee pharmacists achieved this.

Part 1 questions reflect scenarios that are encountered when practising as a pharmacist and require underpinning pharmacy knowledge.

Trainee pharmacists should check that each answer is practical and realistic as this will help identify incorrect answers.

Trainee pharmacists should consider the dose, frequency, formulation and duration of treatment when calculating quantities to supply. A variety of dose expressions are used in the assessment. For example, the dose can be expressed in terms of a definite frequency (e.g., 500mg every 8 hours, 2.5mg/kg twice daily) or in total daily dose format (e.g., 150mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses).

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 are expected to apply their underpinning knowledge to recognise when it is more appropriate to round up or round down. For oral liquid preparations supplied with an oral syringe, trainee pharmacists should consider the available graduation marks on the syringe provided.

When necessary, instructions are provided in the question about rounding for the final inputted answer, for example, give your answer to one decimal place and give your answer to the nearest mL.

Trainee pharmacists should consider the dosage form and pharmaceutical principles when calculating doses and quantities to supply. For example, a patient cannot take part of a capsule, and ampoules are single use only.

Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to apply pharmaceutical principles to the preparation of medicines. For example, usage of displacement volumes and values when reconstituting powder. They should understand the different methods of injectable administration (e.g., IV bolus, IV infusion) when preparing solutions for administration.

Trainee pharmacists should consider all the relevant information in the scenario when calculating IV infusion rates. For example, the infusion time, concentration, and rate. As part of a safety check, trainee pharmacists should be able to calculate the remaining volume to ensure the infusion is being administered correctly.

## Part 2

In the June 2025 sitting, the part 2 passing score was **79** marks out of a possible 120. In total, **86%** of trainee pharmacists achieved this.

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

- Trainee pharmacists are expected to apply their underpinning knowledge of pharmacy legislation and best professional practice to ensure medicines are supplied safely, efficiently and within legal requirements. They are expected to analyse prescriptions for validity and clarity. Trainee pharmacists are expected to know and apply the conditions for an emergency supply.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to dispose of medicines safely, legally and effectively.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to respond appropriately to medical emergencies that may present in the pharmacy, including provision of first aid.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to identify and manage common skin conditions. They are expected to know how common skin conditions present across diverse skin tones.

- 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 are expected to be up to date with evidence-based management and its application to an individual patient.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to understand how to treat cardiovascular conditions. For example, heart failure and stable angina. They should consider the patient's comorbidities and concomitant medication when selecting treatment ensuring there are no contraindications or clinically significant interactions. Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to advise on the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease, including appropriate antiplatelet therapy and lipid-modifying therapy.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to interpret physiological and investigation results and know what actions to take when results are out of normal range. They are expected to know when it is appropriate to optimise drug treatment, including lifestyle measures. For example, optimising treatment if a patient's individualised lipid target is not achieved or if blood pressure is uncontrolled.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to be knowledgeable on public health priorities including antimicrobial stewardship, cancer screening, smoking cessation and vaccination.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to provide appropriate advice and guidance on the safe and effective use of medicines. They are expected to be up to date with MHRA/CHM advice and important safety information to prevent harm and improve patient safety. Trainee pharmacists are expected to advise on medicines use during intercurrent illness.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to recognise and manage adverse effects of commonly prescribed medicines. Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to identify and review potentially inappropriate medication. For example, a medicine with increased anticholinergic burden.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to provide person-centred care to patients with reproductive healthcare needs. They are expected to advise on the suitability of different methods of contraception and be able to manage common drug interactions.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to understand the available options for the management of symptoms associated with menopause (e.g., vasomotor, urogenital symptoms).
- Trainee pharmacists should know the different insulin preparations 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 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, including starting treatment, adjusting and stepping-down treatment.