

Guidance for trainee pharmacists who are unsuccessful in the Common Registration Assessment - November 2025

About this document

We understand that not passing this sitting of the Common Registration Assessment may be deeply disappointing, and you may need time to reflect before deciding on your next steps.

This document provides information and guidance that we hope will support you during this time and help you consider your options moving forward.

You can find out more about the assessment on our dedicated [Common Registration Assessment webpage](#).

Assessment results

You will have received the outcome of your sitting via myGPhC, including your results. The letter will tell you:

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

We will not issue results via post, phone, or email.

How we award marks

Each sitting of the Common Registration Assessment has two parts.

Part one contains 40 pharmacy calculation free text responses.

Part two contains 120 multiple-choice selected response questions (90 single best answer questions and 30 extended matching questions) on safe and effective pharmacy care of the public.

The Board of Assessors may remove questions from the assessment after it has taken place. This could be due to a recent change in guidance or legislation, or because a question is found to be incorrect for any other reason. In some cases, the Board may also accept more than one correct answer.

As a result, the total number of marks available may be reduced for each, or either, part. If any questions are removed, the pass mark for that part is adjusted accordingly.

Marking individual answers

Each correct answer is awarded one mark, and incorrect answers receive zero.

We do not use negative marking — in other words, no marks are deducted for incorrect responses.

Marking each part of the assessment

Your part one mark is the total of all correct answers in part one, and your part two mark is the total of all correct answers in part two.

Passing the assessment

The passing standard is derived through a modified Angoff process with the addition of one Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) and maintained using Item Response Theory (IRT). The pass mark can vary for each sitting because it needs to account for the relative difficulty of the questions. This ensures all trainee pharmacists meet the minimum competence level required for entry onto the register, while ensuring fairness to trainees through a consistent demonstration of knowledge, regardless of the assessment sitting.

There is no target or expected pass rates for any sitting of the Common Registration Assessment.

To pass the assessment, you must achieve the pass mark, or higher, in part one and part two.

Marks cannot be compensated between parts, in that a high score in one part cannot make up for a lower score in the other. Additionally, marks cannot be transferred between different sittings.

Quality assurance of trainee marks

There are processes in place for checking of trainees' 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 [assessment page](#) of the GPhC website.

Feedback from this sitting

We would strongly encourage you to read the cohort feedback from this sitting. This may help you understand which areas to focus on when preparing for future assessment sittings.

There is also feedback available on our website for the sittings in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

You can find the feedback under the [preparing to sit the assessment](#) section.

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

Appealing your assessment result

Your right to appeal against an unsuccessful result is explained in [section 10 of the Common 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 Common 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.

As outlined in the Common **Registration Assessment regulations for sittings in 2025**, 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 your nullification request was rejected, you can only submit an appeal if you are appealing for a different reason.

Appeal outcomes

There are only two outcomes to an appeal:

1. **Not upheld** - the fail result stands, and the trainee is deemed unsuccessful in that attempt at the Common Registration Assessment.
2. **Upheld** - the attempt is nullified and does not count towards the number of available attempts at the Common Registration Assessment.

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 send the outcome to you.

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 webpage.** 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 6 January 2026**. We will not accept appeals by any other method.

Appeals submitted after the deadline about a procedural error that were known about beforehand, will not be considered.

Read the **Common Registration Assessment Regulations** to find out when we consider a late appeal.

Appeals and applying for next assessment sitting

We encourage all trainees to send 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 to sit in the normal way, even if you do not know the outcome of your appeal at the time. You must apply for the assessment and for 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.

Sitting the assessment again

The next assessment sitting is on **Tuesday 16 June 2026**.

Information about eligibility, entry deadlines, adjustments and how to apply for the June 2026 sitting will be made available on our **dedicated webpage** in due course.

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

Applying for a reasonable adjustment for sittings in 2026

If you have previously been granted an adjustment that was either 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 forms are available on our dedicated **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 as we appreciate it can be difficult to get an appointment with your healthcare professional to complete the form.

If you submit an incomplete application, this could result in your request being rejected. The deadline for submitting reasonable adjustment application form for the June 2026 sitting is **5pm on Monday 23 February 2026**.

If you have difficulty completing the application, or obtaining the required evidence, you will need to contact **adjustments@pharmacyregulation.org** as soon as possible and before the application deadline.

You may also want to read the reasonable adjustments page on **Pharmacist Support website**.

Registration applications

If you submitted your registration application before receiving your results and it was provisionally approved but you did not pass, your application will be terminated and returned to you in the new year.

If you sit the Common Registration Assessment in 2026, you will need to reapply for registration. After completing the assessment, you must ensure your documents are still valid and re-submit both your paper documents and your online application.

If you have declared any matters to be considered at the point of registration, these will not be reviewed until you have successfully passed the Common Registration Assessment.

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

Please **read the application guidance** for more information.

Help and support

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

If you have not already done so, you may wish 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 with them via email (graduateofficer@bpsa.co.uk), on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheBPSA) or on X ([@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 Common Registration Assessment sitting if you have been training or working as a provisionally registered pharmacist in Scotland. You can contact them via email (nes.ftyparmacy@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 (enquiries@the-pda.org), or phone (0121 694 7000).

Pharmacist Support

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

Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)

The RPS offers support for you during your training.

Third time sitters

There are other career options where you can make use of your pharmacy degree, which 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
- a designated supervisor
- a specialist careers counsellor
- Citizens Advice Bureau

Pharmacist Support also have a factsheet available for pharmacy graduates.