

Feedback from the June 2022 registration assessment sitting

About this document

This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the June 2022 registration assessment. It is from the board of assessors, the body that sets and moderates the registration assessment.

The registration assessment framework

All questions in the registration assessment are derived from the assessment framework. The different outcomes have different weighting and candidates 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 2022 assessment mapped to the learning outcomes as follows:

- 68.6% of the questions mapped to high weighted outcomes
- 25.7% of the questions mapped to medium weighted outcomes
- 5.7% of the questions mapped to low weighted outcomes

The application of underpinning knowledge is tested in both part 1 and part 2 of the assessment.

Example questions

Candidates should use the example questions available via the GPhC website to help prepare for the registration assessment. The example questions provide a guide to what to expect from questions in the assessment and the opportunity to become familiar with the onscreen platform used to deliver the registration assessment.

Part 1

In the June 2022 sitting, the part 1 passing score was 24 marks out of a possible 40. In total, 84% of candidates 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 questions in part 1. When reviewing their answers, candidates should check that each answer is practical and realistic as this will help identify incorrect answers.

When calculating intravenous infusion rates, candidates 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. For example, a candidate may be asked to calculate the dose of an intravenous medicine and then calculate the minimum volume in which it can be diluted.

Candidates are expected to apply their underpinning knowledge and round at appropriate stages in a pharmacy calculation. In some questions, the rounding should occur at the end of the calculation, but in other questions 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.

When necessary, instructions are provided in the question about rounding for the final inputted answer. Examples of instructions 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

Part 2

In the June 2022 sitting, the part 2 passing score was 80 marks out of a possible 119. In total, 90% of candidates achieved this.

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

- Candidates should be able to differentiate between red flag symptoms and symptoms that can be managed appropriately with advice from a pharmacist. When provided with a list of options, candidates must be able to identify when it is appropriate to offer advice and treatment and when it is more appropriate to refer to another health care provider.
- Candidates should be aware of medicines that should be taken at particular times of the day to enhance efficacy or to reduce the incidence of side effects. Sometimes, but not always, advice applies to all medicines in a given class of drug. For example, some but not all statins should be taken in the evening.
- Candidates should know the maximum daily dose of paracetamol and be able to identify the paracetamol content in combination products, including prescription only medicines, pharmacy medicines and general sales list medicines. Candidates should be able to advise patients on appropriate combinations of analgesia.
- Candidates should know that breastfeeding is an important public health priority and be able to advise on the use of medicines in breastfeeding including the treatment of patients with conditions that frequently present in the pharmacy such as backache.