

# Feedback from the June 2023 registration assessment sitting

## About this document

This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the June 2023 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 June 2023 assessment mapped to the learning outcomes as follows:

- 67% of the questions mapped to high weighted outcomes
- 25% of the questions mapped to medium weighted outcomes
- 8% of the questions mapped to low weighted outcomes

## Example questions

Trainee pharmacists 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 in the registration assessment and the opportunity to become familiar with the onscreen platform used to deliver the assessment.

## Part 1

In the June 2023 sitting, the part 1 passing score was 25 marks out of a possible 39. In total, 85% 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 be able to provide person-centred care to trans people including medication dose optimisation for those with kidney impairment who have not undergone gender reassignment or begun a transitioning process.

When calculating intravenous infusion rates, trainee pharmacists should consider all of 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 as shown in the box below:

A patient requires a dose of 200mg of an IV medicine that is available as a 5mg/mL solution. The medicine can be diluted to a concentration of between 1mg/mL and 4mg/mL with sodium chloride 0.9%. The minimum volume that the medicine can be infused in is 40mL.

Trainee pharmacists 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. Often in the June 2023 sitting, trainee pharmacists did not follow specific rounding instructions or failed to apply knowledge of the practicalities of providing a specific dose. Examples of specific information 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
- the pre-filled syringe comes with 2.5mg graduation markings

## Part 2

In the June 2023 sitting, the part 2 passing score was 77 marks out of a possible 119. In total, 84% of trainee pharmacists achieved this.

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

- Trainee pharmacists must be able to differentiate between red flag symptoms and those that are most likely associated with illness that can be managed appropriately with advice from a pharmacist. When provided with a list of options, trainee pharmacists 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.
- As was observed in November 2022, trainee pharmacists performed less well than previously in questions testing the outcomes from the registration assessment framework shown below:

| <b>Future Pharmacist Outcome</b>               | <b>Indicative assessment topic</b>  |
|--|---|
| Analyse prescriptions for validity and clarity | Legal and professional requirements for prescriptions, to enable the safe and legal supply of medicines |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Supply medicines safely and efficiently, consistently within legal requirements and best professional practice. | Statutory regulations and professional requirements for the supply of human and veterinary medicines |
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Trainee pharmacists are reminded that part 2 tests a wide range of topics and is not restricted to clinical pharmacy practice.

- Trainee pharmacists are expected to know that the risk of having some clinical conditions varies depending on ethnicity and that the optimum treatment of some conditions varies according to ethnicity. Trainee pharmacists are expected to know and understand how to manage common conditions in patients with different ethnic backgrounds.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to know and understand how to treat asthma in both adults and children, including when treatment should be escalated, and when it can be safely stepped down.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to review patient parameters including the results of common investigations such as blood glucose and BP and be able to recommend suitable management plans including when no change is required.
- Trainee pharmacists are expected to be able to provide person centred advice in accordance with guidelines to those seeking emergency contraception.