

# Feedback from the November 2022 registration assessment sitting

## About this document

This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the November 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 November 2022 assessment mapped to the learning outcomes as follows:

- 70% of the questions mapped to high weighted outcomes
- 25% of the questions mapped to medium weighted outcomes
- 5% of the questions mapped to low weighted outcomes

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

## Part 1

In the November 2022 sitting, the part 1 passing score was 23 marks out of a possible 40. In total, 81% 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 some questions. 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 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.

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. Often in the November 2022 sitting, candidates 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 November 2022 sitting, the part 2 passing score was 83 marks out of a possible 120. In total, 59% of candidates achieved this.

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

- Candidates 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, 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 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

Candidates are reminded that part 2 tests a wide range of topics.

- When applying a clinical guideline, candidates must decide how it is best applied to an individual patient based on the information provided. Candidates must be able to recognise when a patient requires acute urgent care and when guidelines for management of a chronic long-term condition are more applicable. For example, a patient having an acute exacerbation of their asthma should be treated differently to a patient having a review related to the long-term management of their asthma. Candidates must be able to prioritise and assess how unwell a patient is from the information provided.
- Candidates did not perform well in questions testing application of knowledge related to common respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD.
- Candidates did not perform well in questions that included extracts from an SmPC or other resources requiring them to find information and then apply it. Candidates are expected to be familiar with the structure of resources commonly used in practice so that they are able to find and apply the required information efficiently. For example, candidates should be familiar with the format and layout of SmPCs, in order for them to access information quickly. Candidates should know where types of information will be found in an SmPC and go directly to that place rather than attempting to read the entire document. A search function is available to use on PDFs that are attached to questions and candidates should find out how to use this search function in advance of their sitting.
- Candidates should understand the differences between an adverse drug reaction and an allergy, particularly in relation to antibiotic prescribing and choosing the most appropriate antibiotic for a patient. The use of broad spectrum, non-penicillin antibiotics in people who could be optimally treated with a penicillin-based antibiotic may lead to antibiotic resistance and/or suboptimal therapy.
- Candidate performance in November 2022 showed a lack in depth of knowledge and of ability to apply knowledge to a specific patient situation especially regarding patients with co-morbidities. Candidates are reminded that the registration assessment assesses ability to apply knowledge and this application is best learnt in a practice environment.