

# Feedback from the September 2019 registration assessment

## About this document

This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC's) September 2019 registration assessment. It is from the board of assessors, the body that sets and moderates the registration assessment. It is aimed at pre-registration trainee pharmacists, pre-registration tutors and anyone involved in pharmacist education and training.

## 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.

Underpinning knowledge is tested in both part 1 and part 2 of the assessment.

Up to 25% of questions in an assessment paper may involve the use of the resource pack.

## Part 1

Candidates performed well in questions testing the ability to calculate doses and quantities to supply and in those involving calculation of infusion rates.

Candidates found questions involving displacement values difficult.

Candidates should apply underpinning knowledge when performing pharmaceutical calculations. Whilst normal mathematical rules about rounding apply to the registration assessment, candidates must consider for each question where any rounding should occur in a pharmacy practice context. 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.

In some questions, specific rounding instructions are provided. For example, a dose may be rounded to the nearest mL for ease of administration or specific instruction may be given to round up or round down. Some questions ask for an individual dose and others ask for the amount needed for a course of

treatment. If the correct answer should be given to one or two decimal places, instructions will be provided in the question. Candidates should read each question carefully.

Candidates should check that each answer is realistic and practical. Examples of answers that are unrealistic from the September 2019 sitting include:

- A dose of 90 or 9000 pump actuations of a medicine
- A 645-day course of treatment for oropharyngeal candidiasis

## Part 2

Candidates demonstrated good knowledge about the safe supply of valproate.

Candidates are expected to 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. For example, a child with symptoms that might indicate sepsis should be referred urgently whereas a pharmacist can offer advice on symptomatic relief for most children with chickenpox.

Candidates are expected to know, understand and be able to apply the conditions for the supply of pharmacy medicines including those that have been recently deregulated. Candidates are expected to know what counselling should be provided to encourage safe use of these products.

Candidates are expected to be able to apply the legal framework to the handling of cannabinoid-containing products and medicinal cannabis, including safe supply, labelling requirements and record keeping.

When several actions are required, for example after an adverse drug reaction is detected or when an error has occurred, candidates are expected to demonstrate that they can prioritise appropriately, providing person-centred care.

Candidates are expected to be able to identify potentially harmful interactions that occur between anticoagulants and other medicines and/or food.

Candidates are expected to know and understand how common diseases are managed. For example, candidates are expected to understand the management of thyroid disease and be able to differentiate between the symptoms of disease and adverse drug reactions.

## Answer Sheets

Whilst most candidates filled in their answer sheets as directed, some candidates did not fill in the answer sheets clearly. Marks cannot be awarded if the answer is not clear. Candidates should ensure that numbers in part 1 are clearly written and that answers in part 2 are clearly marked on the answer sheet.

In these examples, from September 2019, the intended answer is not clear.

40 

--	--	--

6	7	5	.
---	---	---	---

--	--

 minute(s) 

116 

[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]	[F]	[G]	[H]
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

