Feedback from the September 2018 registration assessment

About this document
This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the General Pharmaceutical Council’s (GPhC’s) September 2018 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. Candidates should use the framework as the basis for preparation. Many questions in the assessment will concern patients who have co-morbidities and these questions are mapped across multiple parts of the framework.

Part 1
Candidates performed well in questions testing the ability to calculate doses and quantities to supply. Candidates performed less well in questions that related to:
- those involving the part 1 resource pack as some candidates omitted these questions
- those requiring rounding within the calculation
Normal mathematical rules about rounding apply to the registration assessment. Candidates must read each question carefully and consider for each question where any rounding should occur. 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. If a question asks for the number of vials required to provide a dose and the candidate calculates 3.2, then 4 vials are needed to provide the required dose. 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.
Candidates should check that each answer makes sense.

Part 2
Candidates performed less well in questions testing:
- decision making when a patient presents with symptoms in a pharmacy:
feedback from the september 2018 registration assessment

- candidates are expected to know when treatment can be recommended, and when patients should be referred. when a patient can be appropriately managed in the pharmacy, this is the best course of action
- candidates must know and understand the evidence base that guides product selection in the pharmacy

- knowledge of high risk medicines and groups of medicines that are highlighted in the assessment framework. these are medicines that have a greater potential to cause patient harm if prescribed, dispensed or administered incorrectly. high risk medicines may have:
  - a narrow therapeutic range where there is little difference between sub-therapeutic and toxic doses and/or
  - serious side effects when an incorrect dose is given
  - serious consequences if administered via the wrong route

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 2018, the intended answer is not clear.

numbers must be entered in the correct place using the pre-entered decimal point. for example, if the answer is 1292, the following is not correct and the candidate will not be awarded a mark:

if the answer is 81, the following is not correct and the candidate will not be awarded a mark:

the feedback from previous sittings is available in section 5 of the pre-registration manual.