



# Feedback from the June 2017 registration assessment

## About this document

This document contains feedback drawn from candidate performance in the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC's) June 2017 registration assessment. It has been released by the Board of Assessors, the independent 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 will concern patients who have multiple morbidities and these questions are mapped across multiple parts of the framework.

## Part 1

Candidates performed less well in questions that related to:

- infusion rates, especially if the duration of infusion was less than 24 hours. Candidates tended to miss the information on the duration of the infusion
- questions where dose rounding was required to calculate an individual dose before calculating the total supply needed. For example, if a dose of a medicine is calculated at 490 mg and the medicine is available as a 500 mg tablet, rounding should occur for an individual dose rather than at the end when calculating a 28-day supply
- questions where candidates needed to apply the situation to a patient. For example, a question might stipulate that a patient using an insulin pen device or cartridge has been advised that each dose should be withdrawn from a single pen device or cartridge. Candidates are then expected to understand that there will be some residual insulin left in the device, which cannot be used, and should take this in to account when calculating the number of days of treatment that can be provided from an insulin product

Sometimes candidates gave answers that were incorrect by one or more factors of 10.

Sometimes candidates gave answers that were implausible. These included:

- calculating that 100 ampoules of a medicine are required to prepare a single infusion for an individual patient
- suggesting a dose of 403 mg every 12 hours for a patient when the medicine is available as a 400 mg tablet

Candidates should consider whether each answer is realistic and practical.

Candidates should check that they have given the answer in the units requested. For example, in this sitting where an answer was required in micrograms/kilogram/minute, some candidates provided an answer in micrograms/minute.

## **Part 2**

Candidates performed less well in questions testing:

- 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
- decision making when a patient presents with symptoms in a pharmacy. Candidates are expected know when treatment can be recommended, and when patients should be referred. Candidates must show that they can take responsibility for patient care and where relevant appropriately signpost to other providers
- the most appropriate analgesia to offer to patients
- appropriate use of corticosteroids and the indications for reducing dose regimens
- management of cardiovascular risk

## **Resource packs**

Separate resource packs are provided in part 1 and part 2 of the registration assessment. These packs will contain a variety of material including photographs, extracts from reference sources such as the BNF and BNFC, summaries of product characteristics, guidelines or extracts from guidelines, worksheets and primary care medication records.

Candidates are expected to be familiar with the structure of resources commonly used in practice so that they are able to extract the required information efficiently. For example, candidates should be familiar with the format and layout of SPCs, in order for them to access information quickly. Candidates

should know where types of information will be found in an SPC and go directly to that place rather than attempting to read the entire document.

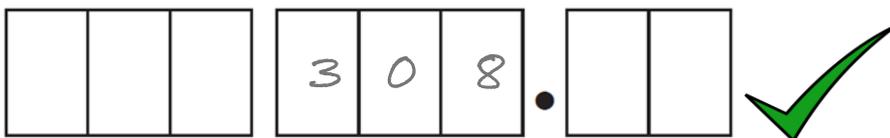
### Answer Sheets

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, which are taken from the June 2017 assessment, the intended answer is not clear.



For whole numbers, do not enter zeros after the decimal point. For example, if the answer is 308 then the answer sheet should be completed as follows:



If the answer is not a whole number, then use the pre-printed decimal point. For example, if the answer is 0.9, a leading zero should be used, and the answer sheet should be completed as follows:



More information on completing answer sheets can be found at:

**<https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/pre-reg-updates>**

The feedback from previous sittings is available at:

**<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/51-registration-assessment-preparation>**