



June 2022 Assessment FAQs

July 2022

| representing **your** interests |

| defending **your** reputation |

The PDA is here to support you, and we will be operating a dedicated helpline on Friday 29 July, 9 am – 5 pm and on Saturday 30 July, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. If you need to speak with a member of our team urgently, please telephone 0121 694 7000. You can also contact us via our online form: [Union Enquiries | The Pharmacists' Defence Association \(the-pda.org\)](#)

Support and guidance on well-being and finances is also available from Pharmacist Support: [Registration assessment: What to do when you receive your results - Pharmacist Support](#)

The PDA will continue to support members with practical help and advice on the appeals process, provisional registration, nullification or what happens next. Any individual concerns about the assessment which have not been covered in this document should be logged with the PDA support centre: [Union Enquiries | The Pharmacists' Defence Association \(the-pda.org\)](#)

I passed the assessment, what do I do now?

Congratulations!

The GPhC will provide successful assessment candidates with further information regarding how to join the register and the relevant criteria.

You may find the following links useful:

- [After the registration assessment | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)
- [Criteria for registration as a pharmacist in Great Britain \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)
- [Registering as a pharmacist | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)

Your PDA membership

The PDA provides up to 3 months FREE membership for those who have newly qualified (successfully passed their assessment examination). This helps to alleviate the financial pressure for registrants at a time when you are paying the costs of an exam and registration. To take advantage of this, you must apply for **Newly Qualified** membership.

[Join Here](#)

I did not pass the June 2022 Assessment, what happens now?

Alongside your results, the GPhC should have provided you with guidance about the appeals system, and how to prepare to sit the assessment again.

[Guidance for unsuccessful candidates in the June 2022 registration assessment \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)

Please also take the time to read this FAQ document as it contains information and advice to help you through this time.

Support and guidance on well-being and finances is also available from Pharmacist Support: [Registration assessment: What to do when you receive your results - Pharmacist Support](#)

It can be a difficult time for potential pharmacists, but it is not the end of your journey into pharmacy. You can read about a qualified pharmacist's experience of failing the GPhC assessment <https://www.the-pda.org/life-isnt-a-race-and-failure-will-only-make-you-stronger/>

What happens to my PDA membership?

You do not need to take any action now and can continue with your current membership.

You will have access to PDA Education's support and FREE revision programme for your future assessment re-sit. Members should look out for the registration link from PDA Education by email.

If you have not passed the exam by the time your annual membership is due for a renewal, please renew as a **potential pharmacist**.

Your membership will once again be FREE. Potential pharmacists are individuals who may find themselves no longer a student and not on a trainee structured programme but are still working towards becoming a pharmacist soon.

For example:

- Graduated with the MPharm qualification but not yet attempted the exam.
- Waiting to re-sit the exam after a previous attempt.
- Signed off from the trainee programme and have chosen not to register as a provisional registrant.

The membership benefits match those of trainee pharmacists.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO PROVISIONALLY REGISTERED PHARMACISTS. SEE THE SPECIFIC SECTION BELOW ABOUT THE JUNE 2022 ASSESSMENT FOR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THIS.

Now I've had my result, can I appeal?

An appeal will only be considered by the regulator on one of the following grounds:

- Procedural grounds. This is when you feel that a registration assessment procedure was not correctly applied. This includes problems with the way sitting took place, such as IT and technical issues, or delays to you starting either paper.
- If there were exceptional circumstances, unique to you, that may have affected your performance during a sitting, but that you did not know about and could not have known about before or during the sitting.

The PDA is encouraging those who were unsuccessful in the June 2022 assessment sitting to appeal if they have experienced any of the following, which we insist are areas where a procedure has not been correctly applied by the GPhC/assessment provider on the day:

- Reasonable adjustments confirmed in writing from the GPhC/PSNI in advance of the sitting, and which were not fully implemented on the day.

- Unacceptable levels of noise or disruption on the day which would indicate that the venue used was not fit for the purpose of a high stakes' exam sitting.
- Technical difficulties which interfered with your ability to sit the assessment fairly and which were reported to the invigilator on the day.
- A delay of 30 mins or more to the exam commencing, and you have not been informed by the regulator that your sitting is nullified.
- A delay of 30 minutes or more for your first sitting and you have not been offered the opportunity to join the provisional register by GPhC.

If your appeal is based on grounds which you could have used to request a nullification, or any circumstances that you knew about before you sat the assessment, your appeal will not be considered. If you sat the assessment, you are considered to have declared yourself 'fit to sit'.

You therefore cannot appeal on the following grounds:

- Failure to bring a functioning calculator that conforms to one of the makes and models specified by the GPhC.
- That a candidate was unable to attend a test centre for reasons beyond the GPhC's control, including travel arrangements or Covid-19.
- That a request for reasonable adjustment was made but was not granted by the adjustments panel.
- That a specific need was known to the candidate but an application for reasonable adjustment was not made.

Education and training providers, including the GPhC, have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to provide reasonable adjustments to those candidates who require them. Trainees and potential pharmacists who have been allocated a reasonable adjustment by the regulator should expect to receive them whether that be additional time, a separate space, or other adjustment. Reasonable adjustments are agreed to ensure that all candidates have a fair and equal opportunity, regardless of any disability, to sit the exam and to perform at their best.

The regulators have a duty to ensure that BTL implement reasonable adjustments and we expect every candidate allocated a reasonable adjustment, to have it implemented properly in the next sitting, to ensure that these candidates are not placed at a disadvantage. Failure to implement a reasonable adjustment might be considered disability discrimination and the PDA have significant experience in supporting members who have been subject to acts of discrimination.

How do I appeal?

If you wish to appeal, you must do so by completing the GPhC's official appeal form and send any supporting documentation and evidence to regexam@pharmacyregulation.org by **9 am on Friday 22 August 2022**. The GPhC will not accept appeals by any other method.

You can find the form here: [Appealing a fail result in the June 2022 registration assessment | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)

In your appeal form, state clearly and concisely the details of what happened during your assessment sitting that form the basis of your appeal.

What are the likely outcomes of an appeal?

There are only two possible outcomes from the appeal:

1. The appeal is not upheld, in which case the fail mark stands, and you will fail that attempt at the registration assessment.
2. The appeal is upheld, in which case your sitting attempt is nullified and will not count as one of your available attempts. If the appeal is upheld on procedural grounds and the candidate is eligible, they will be able to join the provisional register.

I believe I will be eligible for provisional registration if my appeal is upheld. What do I need to do?

If you are submitting an appeal on procedural grounds and would like to join the provisional register if your appeal is upheld, you should check the provisional registration criteria to ascertain that you are eligible. You can view this here: [Actions to address the unacceptable delays experienced by some registration assessment candidates: appeals, refunds and provisional registration \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/actions-to-address-the-unacceptable-delays-experienced-by-some-registration-assessment-candidates-peals-refunds-and-provisional-registration).

If you are eligible, you should complete the provisional registration application form and submit this along your appeal form so you can be added to the register as promptly after your appeal outcome is decided. The application form can be found here: [Application for provisional registration July 2022 | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/application-for-provisional-registration-july-2022-general-pharmaceutical-council)

You may also wish to read the questions further down this document which relate to provisional registration.

Can an appeal result in a pass mark?

An appeal will not result in a change of marks. If your appeal is upheld this will nullify your attempt and ensure this is not counted towards the number of available attempts.

Should I await my appeal result before booking my re-sit?

If you appeal against your result for the June 2022 assessment and wish to re-sit the assessment at the next available sitting, you should still apply to sit the November 2022 assessment before the deadline, even if the June sitting was your third attempt, you are still awaiting the outcome of your appeal or November will be after your 8-year limit.

You can find out more information here: [Sitting the registration assessment in November 2022 | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sitting-the-registration-assessment-in-november-2022-general-pharmaceutical-council)

I am now at the time limit, what can I do?

We are aware that there are a small number of PDA members for whom the June 2022 sitting was their third and final attempt and/or they will be beyond the 8 years cut off if they are required to re-sit in November 2022.

The GPhC have confirmed that if you are appealing on procedural grounds to do with problems with the way sitting took place and your appeal is upheld, then they will extend your time limit by 12 months. If you're appealing on other grounds and your appeal is upheld, this does not automatically mean that your time limit to apply for registration will be extended.

We would encourage members who are unsuccessful on results day and find themselves in these difficult circumstances to contact the PDA Service Centre to seek guidance on their individual circumstances.

I am finding that my mental health and well-being is being affected, what support is available for me?

- If you feel your health is being affected by the assessment process, please contact your GP.
- The charity Pharmacist Support provide a wide range of support services for pharmacists and their families which relate to wellbeing and mental health. [Contact us - Pharmacist Support](#)
- In Northern Ireland, pharmacists can use PASS for support. [Who We Are – Pharmacy Forum NI \(pfni.org.uk\)](#).
- Speaking to others and sharing your experiences, talking to peer groups and friends to form a support network can also be a help.

For situations of crisis, there are several organisations who are there to help;

- Call the Samaritans on 116 123 for FREE or [Contact Us | Samaritans](#)
- Text Shout to 85258
- You can find support via the NHS: [Get urgent help for mental health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Please remember that you can call 999 if someone's life is at risk or you feel that you cannot keep yourself or others safe.

The PDA will continue to support members with practical help and advice on the appeals process, provisional registration, nullification or what happens next. Any individual concerns about the assessment which have not been covered here should be logged with the PDA support centre. [Union Enquiries | The Pharmacists' Defence Association \(the-pda.org\)](#)

June 2022 Assessment Issues

Due to serious issues faced by some candidates specifically during the June 2022 assessment, the GPhC have announced additional actions and appeal criteria for those affected.

[Actions to address the unacceptable delays experienced by some registration assessment candidates: appeals, refunds and provisional registration \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)

Can I appeal if my assessment sitting was delayed?

The GPhC has confirmed that it will automatically accept a delay of 30 minutes or more in starting either or both parts of the registration assessment as reasonable grounds for appeal.

This means that if a candidate does not pass the assessment, this sitting would not count as one of their limited number of attempts. Candidates do not have to complete an appeal form in this instance. The GPhC should provide such candidates with further information.

Can I get a refund if my sitting was delayed?

The GPhC will automatically accept a delay of 30 minutes or more in starting either or both parts of the registration assessment as a reason for refunding the fee for sitting the registration assessment in full.

Am I eligible for provisional registration?

The GPhC is offering provisional registration to candidates who have been unsuccessful at the June 2022 sitting and meet the following criteria:

- They sat the registration assessment on 29 June 2022 and experienced delays of 30 minutes or more in starting or completing either or both Part 1 and/or Part 2 of the registration assessment due to technical or other IT difficulties. (This also includes those who withdrew from the registration assessment on the day due to the start of the assessment being delayed by 30 minutes or more).

OR

- They had their appeal upheld due to other issues that would constitute procedural error in the conduct of the assessment.

AND

- Have not previously failed the registration assessment at a sitting earlier than 29 June 2022.
- Have successfully completed 52 weeks foundation training and received a final declaration from their tutor that they have met all performance standards or learning outcomes
- Are not subject to fitness to practise proceedings.

You can read more about the eligibility criteria here:

[Actions to address the unacceptable delays experienced by some registration assessment candidates: appeals, refunds and provisional registration \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/actions-to-address-the-unacceptable-delays-experienced-by-some-registration-assessment-candidates:-appeals,-refunds-and-provisional-registration)

Is a delay the only available reason for being offered provisional registration following the June 2022 Assessment?

The GPhC will also provisionally register candidates whose appeal is upheld due to other issues that would constitute procedural error in the delivery of the assessment. Please see the above question 'Now I have my result, can I appeal?' for more information on appeal criteria.

How long can I stay on the provisional register?

Individuals must sit the registration assessment at the first available opportunity on which they are fit to do so and must pass the registration assessment to renew their registration on a full, permanent basis.

Any individual who sits the registration assessment when fit to do so and is not successful, will not be eligible to remain on the register provisionally and will therefore be removed. They will need to sit and pass the registration assessment at a future date to return to the register.

If you sit, but do not pass the exam, you should contact the PDA Service Centre to amend your membership type to 'potential pharmacist' once you get those results.

What are the legal issues that may arise from provisional registration?

The GPhC have clarified the responsibilities and expectations of the role here: [Actions to address the unacceptable delays experienced by some registration assessment candidates: appeals, refunds and provisional registration \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/actions-to-address-the-unacceptable-delays-experienced-by-some-registration-assessment-candidates-appeals-refunds-and-provisional-registration)

However, some basic principles apply to minimise legal risks, including:

- Work only within your level of competence and refer to a fully registered pharmacist if unsure.
- Particular care should be taken with calculations and wherever possible obtain a second check with a suitably competent person.
- Particular care should be taken with controlled drugs and drugs with a narrow therapeutic margin.
- Never self-check your own work unless it is a very last resort.
- Maintain good links with your tutor for support and guidance.
- Work within the job profile provided by your employer.

Please remember the PDA team can assist you when you're faced with professional and ethical dilemmas at work.

The PDA has also relaunched the Provisional Registration Charter to support those that are eligible. This is following the GPhC's decision to offer provisional registration as part of their actions to address the issues which happened during the June 2022 assessment sitting. Please download the Provisional Registration Charter here: [PDA relaunches Provisional Registration Charter | The Pharmacists' Defence Association \(the-pda.org\)](https://www.the-pda.org/pda-relaunches-provisional-registration-charter-the-pharmacists-defence-association)

Do I need to change my PDA membership to reflect my provisional registration status?

If you have provisional registration status, you will need to upgrade your PDA membership to Newly Qualified membership which you will be able to do from 1 August 2022. Further information will be provided on membership categories in the coming weeks, so please look out for this.

With PDA potential pharmacists' membership, you can also access a FREE GPhC assessment revision programme which includes:

- Practice revision questions and case studies.
- Two one hour timed mock exams.
- Tips for revising successfully.
- A discussion forum to share your questions, thoughts, and concerns.