



Electronic National Residential Medication Charts Fact Sheet

Background

In response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the Australian Government will address widespread issues associated with medication management in residential aged care by incentivising the use of electronic National Residential Medication Charts (eNRMC).

The use of an eNRMC reduces medication errors and supports greater flexibility and coordination between aged care staff, prescribers and suppliers, through access to real time information about medicines prescribed and administered to a resident. eNRMC products have proven to provide significant benefits to residents, residential aged care facilities (RACFs), prescribers and pharmacists, including:

- Reduced medication safety risks due to inconsistencies between prescriber records and paper medication charts – and less time spent by suppliers reconciling these differences;
- Increased visibility of a residents comprehensive medication record for prescribers, pharmacists and RACF staff;
- Timely provision of medicines;
- Prompts and alerts to advise of allergies or medication interactions, and reminders when a new prescription or follow up consultation is required;
- Reduced administrative burden for RACFs, prescribers and pharmacists; and
- Reductions in polypharmacy (individuals taking five or more daily medications).

What Residential Aged Care Facilities need to know

- The adoption of an eNRMC is not mandatory. Adoption and use of these systems is encouraged to ensure safe and accountable medication management.
- Funding will be available to RACF's to defray the costs of adopting an eNRMC system.
- The payment will be tiered to provide greater support to RACFs in rural and remote areas, and not for profit RACFs.
- The Department is currently defining the payment structure and mechanisms, and will provide information about how RACFs can access this funding as soon as it becomes available.
- There are a number of electronic medication management (EMM) systems available that are working to achieve conformance with eNRMC technical and legislative requirements, including the Electronic Prescribing - Conformance Profile v3.0, released by the Australian Digital Health Agency on 16 April 2021, available at: <https://developer.digitalhealth.gov.au/specifications/ehealth-foundations/ep-3444-2021>.
- Unless a RACF is already participating in the eNRMC Trial (and has been issued with a Trial authorisation number) all medication chart orders must be supported by either a paper NRMC or PBS prescription until EMM systems are registered on the electronic prescribing conformance register, available at: <https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/about-us/policies-privacy-and-reporting/registers>

Additional information

Any questions regarding this initiative or the eNRMC Trial can be sent to the Department at PBSNRMC@health.gov.au