Updates to Medication Chart legislation – effective 1 October 2024

14 October 2024

To better support medication management for older people in residential aged care homes, [several changes](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L01241/latest/text) were recently made to the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 2017,* effective from 1 October 2024\*. These changes will help reduce potential safety risks, support resident choice of pharmacy and improve pharmacy workflows.

\*Note: Changes only apply to electronic prescribing conformant medication charts.

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| Topic | Description of change |
| Definition clarification | Clarification of the definition of an electronic prescription, electronic medication chart and electronic medication chart system. |
| Medication chart system functionality | Authority for the Department’s Secretary to approve medication chart system functionality – to align with paper-based National Residential Medication Charts and to support safe and effective prescribing and supply of PBS medicines. |
| Access to electronic medication charts and use of copies for urgent supply | To dispense a medicine from a medication chart, the pharmacist must view either:* The electronic chart (with or without the medicine administration information included); or
* In urgent situations (when access to the live environment is not possible or practical), a copy of the chart with specific information (such as allergy and adverse reactions) which is date and time stamped.
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| Supply from copies of an electronic medication chart | When a copy of a medication chart is used in urgent situations, pharmacists can only supply a single maximum PBS quantity within 72-hours of generation. |
| Chart duration | Electronic medication charts (excludes paper-based charts) in residential aged care will now be valid for a full 6-month period to enable greater flexibility for vendors, prescribers, and consumers.  |
| Recording of supply information | Pharmacists to record supply information on the electronic prescription rather than in the medication chart itself (unlike paper charts). |
| Record keeping provisions | Medication charts and general electronic prescriptions now have the same record keeping provisions. |
| Transitional arrangements/ applications | Changes effective from 1 October 2024. |

For further information, or if you have any questions, please email eNRMC@health.gov.au.