



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](#) 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.*

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
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.