# **National Aged Care Mandatory Quality Indicator ProgramQuick Reference Guide: Medication Management - Polypharmacy**



This quick reference guide provides information for approved providers of residential aged care to understand and meet their obligations to collect and report data on medication management - polypharmacy for the QI Program.

The medication management – polypharmacy quality indicator is reported against:

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| Icon for medication management | **Percentage of care recipients who were prescribed nine or more medications** |

For the purpose of the QI Program **polypharmacy** is defined as the prescription of nine or more medications to a care recipient.

For the purposes of the QI Program, any medication with an active ingredient is counted in the polypharmacy quality indicator, except for those listed below which must not be included in the count of medications:

* Lotions, creams or ointments used in skin and wound care;
* Dietary supplements, including those containing vitamins;
* Short-term medications, such as antibiotics or temporary eye drops; and
* PRN medications.

Different dosages of the same medicine must not be counted as different medications

## Collect medication management polypharmacy data

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| Calendar icon | Identify and record a collection date during the quarter (DD/MM/YYYY) |
| Check icon | Complete a single review of medication charts and/or administration records for each care recipient on the identified collection date. All care recipients residing at the service on the collection date must be included in the assessment. |
| Recordkeeping icon | Record the number of care recipients:* whose medication charts and/or administration records are reviewed to assess for polypharmacy
* who were prescribed nine or more medications
* excluded because they were not assessed due to hospital admission on the collection date
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*Approved providers of residential aged care must collect and report on both polypharmacy and antipsychotics medication management quality indicator categories, according to the requirements set out in the QI Program Manual 4.0 – Part A (Manual).*

## Report medication management polypharmacy data

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| Reporting numbers icon | **Report** the number of care recipients:who were prescribed nine or more medications |
| Check icon | **Additionally, report the**:* collection date for the quarter (DD/MM/YYYY)

**Additionally, report** the number of care recipients:* assessed for polypharmacy

excluded because they were admitted in hospital on the collection date |

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| EXAMPLE |
| Care recipient Aprescribed 11 different medications | Care recipient Bprescribed 10 different medicationstotal includes 2 PRN medications | Care recipient Cprescribed 9 different medicationstotal includes 1 ointment for wound care and 1 antibiotic for a UTI |
| 17/01/2022 | The collection date for the quarter  |
| Three | Number of care recipients assessed for polypharmacy |
| Zero | Number of care recipients excluded because they were admitted in hospital on the collection date |
| One | Number of care recipients prescribed nine or more medications based on a review of their medication charts and/or administration records as they are on the collection date |

Data recording templates for each quality indicator are available on the department’s website. Use the templates to automatically calculate and summarise data for submission through the Government Provider Management System.

## Submit QI Program data

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| There are three ways QI Program data can be submitted: | Calendar icon | Data must be submitted by the **21st day of the month after the end of each quarter** |
| Submitted icon | 1. Through the GPMS
2. Via a bulk file upload
3. Through a third-party benchmarking company
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| Question mark icon | More informationThe QI Program Manual, and other guidance materials, are available on the Department of Health and Aged Care [website](http://www.health.gov.au/qi-program).For QI Program assistance, contact the My Aged Care provider and assessor helpline on 1800 836 799. The helpline is available between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday, and between 10am and 2pm on Saturday local time across Australia, except for public holidays. |