



Electronic National Residential Medication Charts (eNRMC)

Electronic prescribing capability for residential aged care

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Australian Digital Health Agency are working with eNRMC software vendors to ensure electronic prescribing enabled eNRMC systems are available by October 2025

Why the Government invested in eNRMC and what happens next

An electronic National Residential Medication Chart (eNRMC) system is an electronic medication management system used in residential aged care homes (RACH) to electronically prescribe, supply, and track medicine administration. eNRMC systems provide increased flexibility, coordination, and access to real-time medicine information across multiple care settings, reducing the burden on care teams and patient safety risks.

In response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the government invested significantly in eNRMC adoption through a grant supported by a temporary **Transitional Arrangement** in 2022. This allowed RACHs to begin using eNRMC systems before full electronic prescribing functionality was available.

However, the **Transitional Arrangement is ending**, and only eNRMC systems that meet full **Electronic Prescribing Conformance and legislative requirements** will be permitted for continued use for prescribing purposes. RACH can continue to use non conformant systems for medicine administration, however separate paper or electronic prescriptions will be required to ensure PBS compliance.

What's changing and why it matters

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Australian Digital Health Agency have worked closely with software vendors over the past three years to develop electronic prescribing capabilities and enhanced safety features.

Electronic prescribing conformant eNRMC systems will:

- Extend chart duration from 4 to 6 months
- Reduce manual transcription for pharmacists
- Improve coordination between aged care homes and pharmacies
- Enhance resident safety.

These improvements are critical for enhancing care delivery, reducing risks to residents, and ensuring systems meet national technical and security requirements.

Benefits of electronic prescribing conformant eNRMC systems

- **Streamlined dispensing for pharmacy**
Chart-based electronic prescriptions will be available from the NPDS removing the need for manual transcription.
- **Reduced administrative burden for GPs** Increased chart duration from 4 to 6 months.
- **Alignment of chart review and renewal to bi-annual care planning sessions**, funded by the [General Practice Aged Care Incentive](#).
- **Flexible chart management options**
Prescribers and RACH staff can better manage chart end dates and reviews and renewals. Charts no longer conclude at the end of a month.
- **Enhanced medication safety** through updated clinical and system functionality.



Software vendor readiness

The Department and the Agency are working closely with vendors and expect that the majority of vendors will achieve conformance within the required timeframe. Conformant vendors will be listed on the Agency's [Electronic Prescribing – External Conformance Register](#).

It is important to speak with your vendor soon to determine their planned timeframe for achieving conformance and roll out.

Key dates and actions for Residential Aged Care Homes

30 Sept 2025	Electronic prescribing conformance to be achieved by eNRMC systems If the eNRMC system does not have an approved conformant version available by this date, RACHs may only use non-conformant version of eNRMC for administration purposes and must revert to using separate paper/electronic PBS prescriptions or revert to NRMC.
01 Oct 2025 to 28 Feb 2026	Implementation phase Transitional Arrangement remains active only for eNRMC systems that have approved electronic prescribing conformant versions available. The eNRMC can continue to operate under the Transitional Arrangement until RACHs can safely upgrade to the new electronic prescribing conformant version.
01 Mar 2026	Transitional Arrangement ends All RACHs using an eNRMC system must either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use an electronic prescribing conformant version of their eNRMC systems OR- use non-conformant version of eNRMC for administration purposes only and revert to using separate paper/electronic PBS prescriptions or revert to paper NRMC.

Next Steps for Residential Aged Care Homes

Contact your eNRMC software vendor to confirm:

- Conformance timelines
- Support and training availability to enable safe transition
- Process and timing for migrating existing medication charts, created under the Transitional Arrangement, to the upgraded eNRMC system.

Engage with your servicing pharmacy(s) to ensure readiness and access to necessary information and training via software vendors.

CONTACT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL
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