



PBS Prescriber Fact Sheet: 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 become available from 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 soon** (more details on the following page), and only eNRMC systems that meet **full Electronic Prescribing Conformance and legislative requirements** will be permitted for continued use for prescribing purposes. RACHs can continue to use non conformant systems for medicine administration, however separate paper or electronic prescriptions will be required for PBS claiming.

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 and 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

Reduced administrative burden for GPs – Increased chart duration from 4 to 6 months.

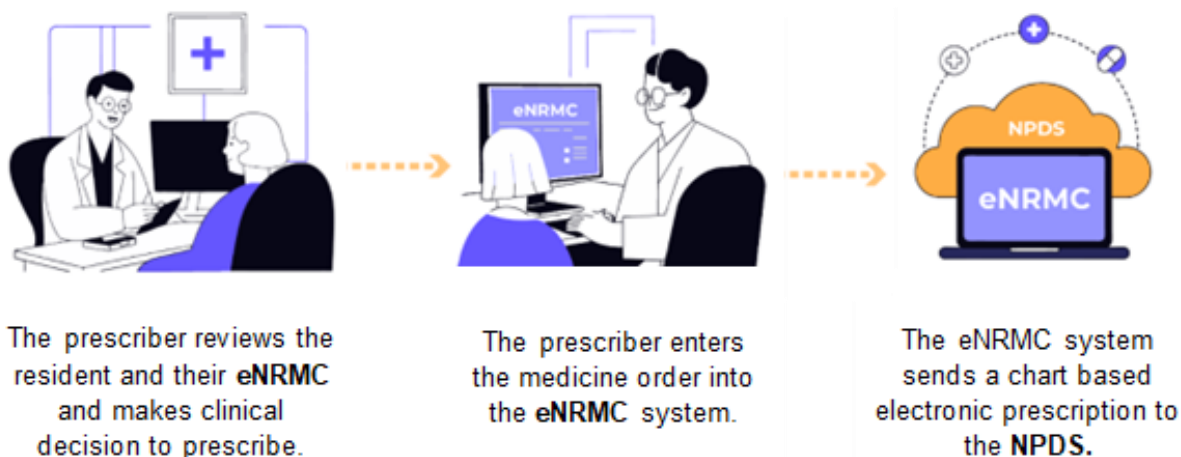
Alignment of chart review and renewal to bi-annual care planning sessions, funded by the [General Practice Aged Care Incentive](#).

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.

Streamlined dispensing for pharmacy – Chart-based electronic prescriptions will be available from the National Prescription Delivery Service (NPDS) removing the need for manual transcription. A token or barcode for scanning will now be available for pharmacists.

Enhanced medication safety – through updated clinical and system functionality.

Diagram 1: Workflow for prescribing from a conformant eNRMC



What is changing for Prescribers?

	✓ Chart duration extended - eNRMC chart duration will be increased from 4 months to 6 months, reducing the frequency of chart renewals. - Charts no longer have to cease at the end of the month, enabling staggered chart reviews and reducing administrative burden.
	✓ Streamlined prescribing and dispensing - With conformant systems, prescriptions are automatically transmitted to the NPDS. - Prescribers can be confident that medication orders are securely and accurately delivered to the pharmacy
	✓ Improved Medication Safety - Conformant systems include enhanced safety features, such as alerts for expiring charts, drug interactions and allergies. - These features support safer prescribing decisions and reduce the risk of medication errors.
	⚠ Potential need for separate duplicate scripts The Department and the Agency are working closely with eNRMC software vendors and expect the majority of vendors will achieve conformance with the technical and legislative requirements for electronic prescribing within the required timeframe (see table 1 for key dates below). If your eNRMC software vendor does not meet the deadline, separate paper/electronic scripts will be required for medication orders created from 2 December 2025 (details below).

Key dates – When will electronic prescriptions for eNRM be available?

	Review of progress for conformance (1 Dec 2025) Non-conformant eNRM vendors must demonstrate considerable progress towards achieving conformance by 1 December, before any further extensions or interventions will be considered by the department.
	Implementation phase (Oct 2025 - Dec 2026) Transitional Arrangement remains active only for eNRM systems that have approved electronic prescribing conformant versions available. These eNRM systems can continue to operate under the Transitional Arrangement until RACHs can safely upgrade to the new electronic prescribing conformant version.
	Transitional Arrangement ends (31 Dec 2026) All RACHs using an eNRM system must either: - Use an electronic prescribing conformant version of their eNRM systems OR - use non-conformant version of eNRM for administration purposes only and revert to using separate paper/electronic PBS prescriptions or revert to paper NRM.

Types of eNRM systems during the rollout of conformant eNRM

Until 31 December 2026, Prescribers may interact with three different versions of eNRM systems to prescribe medicines.

eP conformant eNRM system (available from 2025)

- Has been approved by the Agency as conformant with the technical and legislative requirements for electronic prescribing.
- RACHs are expected to transition to this version of their Transitional eNRM systems by 31 December 2026.

2025-26 Transitional eNRM system

- Meets the legislative and technical requirements to operate under the temporary Transitional Arrangement between October 2025 and December 2026.
- Has a more recent eP conformant version approved by the Agency by 1 December 2025.
- Does not connect to the NPDS or have prescription QR codes or tokens.
- Does not meet all of the requirements for electronic prescribing.
- Can operate under the Transitional Arrangement until 31 December 2026 when RACHs are expected to have upgraded to the eP conformant version of the system.

2022-25 Transitional eNRM system (or non-conformant system)

- Meets the legislative and technical requirements to operate under the temporary Transitional Arrangement between 2022 and 1 December 2025.
- Does not have an eP conformant version approved by the Agency by 1 December 2025.
- Does not meet all of the requirements for electronic prescribing.
- Must be used in parallel with separate prescriptions (paper/electronic/NRM) from 2 December 2025.

Identifiable features of these three systems are outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Understanding eNRM systems during transitional and implementational phase (Oct 2025 to Dec 2026)

eNRM System Status	Identifiable features	Impact	Impact
✓	eP Conformant eNRM system	• Able to electronically prescribe in the eNRM system. • Prescriptions will be sent to the NPDS. • Listed in Table 3 of the Department's Conformance status tracker and Agency's Electronic Prescribing – External Conformance Register.	• Functions similarly to community-based prescriptions using the NPDS. • RACH has completed upgrade. • Can prescribe and dispense via eNRM.
✓	2025-26 Transitional eNRM system	• Continue to prescribe in eNRM but as a transitional product. • Prescriptions will not be sent to NPDS until conformant. • Listed in Table 2 of the Department's Conformance status tracker and Agency's Electronic Prescribing – External Conformance Register.	• Legal to prescribe from during the implementation phase (see Key dates table above). • RACHs must transition to conformant system version by 31 December 2026.
✗	2022-25 Transitional eNRM system (non-conformant system)	• NOT listed on Table 2 or 3 of the Department's Conformance status tracker or on either of the Agency's Electronic Prescribing – External Conformance Register.	• Only legal for medicine administration purposes. • Prescribers must revert to using separate paper/electronic PBS prescriptions or NRMs. • A separate supporting prescription (paper or electronic) must be provided to enable supply.

Prescriber responsibilities during rollout

Speak with your RACH or software vendor to determine their advised timeframe for achieving conformance and rollout completion.

When using a 2025-26 Transitional eNRMC system:

- medicine orders added to the chart on or before 31 December 2026 are valid prescriptions for dispense.
- for any medicine orders on or after 1 January 2027, a separate supporting PBS prescription (paper, electronic or NRMC) will be required for dispense.
- ensure that medicine order information is added to the chart for administration purposes.

When using a 2022-25 Transitional eNRMC system (non-conformant system):

- medicine orders added to the chart before or on 1 December 2025 are valid prescriptions for dispense.
- for any medicine orders on or after 2 December 2025, a separate supporting PBS prescription (paper, electronic or NRMC) will be required for dispense.
- ensure that medicine order information is added to the chart for administration purposes.

When prescribing, you must review the resident's full eNRMC for clinical assessment and quality use of medicines – even when using supporting prescriptions (paper/electronic or NRMC).

Further information about eNRMC

A range of targeted fact sheets about the [rollout of electronic prescribing and eNRMC](#) for prescribers, pharmacists and RACHs can be found on our website.

We have also published a comprehensive [eNRMC user resource](#) which brings together all the key information on using conformant eNRMC systems.

Contact

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