



# National Aged Care Quality Indicator Program (QI Program)

## Quick Reference Guide: Medication Management – Polypharmacy

This guide helps registered providers of approved residential care homes to collect and report data on medication management - polypharmacy for the QI Program.

You must report the medication management – polypharmacy quality indicator against:



- **Percentage of individuals 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 resident.

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



Identify and record a collection date (DD/MM/YYYY) during the reporting period (quarter)



Complete a single review of medication charts and/or administration records for each resident on the identified collection date. All residents residing at the aged care home on the collection date must be included in the assessment.



Record the number of residents:

- 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

Registered providers of approved residential care homes must collect and report on both polypharmacy and antipsychotics medication management quality indicator categories quarterly. See the [QI Program Manual– Part A](#).

## Report medication management polypharmacy data



**Report** the number of residents:

- who were prescribed nine or more medications



**Additionally, report the:**

- collection date for the quarter (DD/MM/YYYY)

**Additionally, report** the number of residents:

- assessed for polypharmacy
- excluded because they were admitted in hospital on the collection date

## Example

Resident A	Resident B	Resident C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>prescribed 11 different medications</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>prescribed 10 different medications</li><li>total includes 2 PRN medications</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>prescribed 9 different medications</li><li>total includes 1 ointment for wound care and 1 antibiotic for a UTI</li></ul>

17/01/2025      The collection date for the quarter



Number of residents assessed for polypharmacy



Number of residents excluded because they were admitted in hospital on the collection date



Number of residents 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 [QI Program resources webpage](#). Use the templates to calculate and summarise data to submit through the Government Provider Management System (GPMS).

## Submit QI Program data

There are 3 ways you can submit QI Program data:



through the GPMS  
via a bulk file upload  
through a third-party benchmarking company



Data must be submitted  
by the **21st day of the  
month after the end of  
each quarter**

## More information



You can find the QI Program Manual and other guidance on the [QI Program's resources webpage](#).

For assistance, contact the My Aged Care provider and assessor helpline on **1800 836 799** and select option 5.

The helpline is closed on Sunday and public holidays. It is open:

- between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday
- between 10am and 2pm on Saturday.

## Improving Australia's aged care system

The Australian Government has delivered major changes to improve aged care.



Visit **[health.gov.au/aged-care-reforms](https://health.gov.au/aged-care-reforms)**



Phone **1800 200 422** (My Aged Care's free-call phone line)

For translating and interpreting services, call 131 450 and ask for 1800 318 209.

To use the National Relay Service, visit [nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs](https://nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs) to choose your preferred access point on their website, or call the NRS Helpdesk on 1800 555 660.