



Electronic National Residential Medication Charts (eNRMC) – Transition to electronic prescribing and end of Transitional Arrangement

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.

An eNRMC system is a type of electronic medication management system used in residential aged care to electronically prescribe, supply, and track medicine administration. This provides increased flexibility, coordination, and access to real-time medicine information across multiple care settings, reducing the burden on care teams and patient safety risks. We have undertaken work on initial eNRMC trials and implementation across aged care since 2018 with substantial benefits demonstrated.

These systems currently operate under a temporary Transitional Arrangement. This allows the use of these systems without full electronic prescribing capability and connection to the National Prescription Delivery Service (NPDS). Once electronic prescribing capability for eNRMC systems is available, the workflows of prescribers, residential aged care staff and pharmacies will be significantly enhanced and streamlined.

Benefits of electronic prescribing enabled eNRMC systems

- **Streamlined dispensing workflows for pharmacists** – 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 four to **six months** (previously four months for paper and Transitional eNRMC).
- **Alignment of chart review and renewal with 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, reviews and renewals. Charts no longer need to finish at the end of a month (as was the case for paper and Transitional eNRMC).
- **Enhanced medication safety and improved functionality through** updated clinical and system functionality requirements.

Revised Timeframes

To ensure these benefits are realised as soon as possible, we initially required eNRMC software to achieve electronic prescribing conformance by 30 June 2025 to allow the Transitional Arrangement to end. Engagement with industry in early 2025 highlighted that extra time was required for:

- essential eNRMC system changes
- ensuring aged care services can safely transition to electronic prescribing enabled versions of their eNRMC products.

As a result, we have extended the timeframes for eNRMC systems to achieve electronic prescribing conformance and for aged care services to transition, as outlined in the diagram and Table 1 below.

	Review of progress for conformance (1 Apr 2026) • Non-conformant eNRMC vendors must demonstrate considerable progress towards achieving conformance by 1 April 2026. From 1 April 2026, orders created using non-conformant systems will require separate PBS prescriptions. Further advice regarding any changes or impacts will be provided to the sector prior to April 2026.
	Implementation phase (Oct 2025 - Dec 2026) • Transitional Arrangement remains active only for eNRMC systems that have approved electronic prescribing conformant versions available. These eNRMC 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 eNRMC system must either: • 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.

Table 1 eNRMC electronic prescribing conformance revised timeframes

Understanding eNRM C product types during roll out

Until 31 December 2026, pharmacists may encounter three different versions of eNRM C systems when dispensing prescriptions.

1. eP conformant eNRM C 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 C systems by 31 December 2026.

2. 2025-26 Transitional eNRM C 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 April 2026.
 - 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 December 2026 when RACHs are expected to have upgraded to the eP conformant version of the system.

3. 2022-26 Transitional eNRM C system (or non-conformant system)

- Meets the legislative and technical requirements to operate under the temporary Transitional Arrangement between 2022 and 1 April 2026.
- Does not have an eP conformant version approved by the Agency by 1 April 2026.
 - Does not meet all of the requirements for electronic prescribing.
 - Must be used in parallel with separate prescriptions (paper/electronic/NRM C) from 1 April 2026.

Next Steps

Residential Aged Care Homes should contact their eNRM C software vendor about their planned:

- timelines for electronic prescribing conformance
- available support and training to safely transition to an electronic prescribing conformant eNRM C.

We will continue to monitor the progress of vendors and aged care homes. We will publish information resources to support prescribers, aged care staff and pharmacists in utilising electronic prescribing enabled eNRM C systems within their work.

Contact

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