



# Designated registered nurse prescribing – information for software vendors: frequently asked questions

## End to end process

### 1. What is the end-to-end process for a designated registered nurse prescriber?

#### 1. Registered Nurse applies for endorsement

- A registered nurse applies to Ahpra to become a designated RN prescriber.
- Ahpra assesses qualifications and grants endorsement where eligibility requirements are met.

#### 2. Ahpra publishes endorsement data

- Endorsed nurse prescriber details are included in the existing Ahpra data feed provided to Services Australia and the Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) system.
- The designated RN prescriber project has identified Provider systems involvement in supporting Ahpra data feed processing and management.

#### 3. PDS (Provider Directory Systems) receive and process the feed

- Services Australia provider systems ingest the Ahpra feed.
- The endorsement status is validated and loaded into provider records.
- This creates the system authority needed to recognise the person as an eligible nurse prescriber.

#### 4. Nurse applies for PBS authorisation

- Once recognised by Services Australia systems, the nurse applies to become an authorised PBS nurse prescriber.

#### 5. Services Australia issues a PBS prescriber number

- Services Australia creates the authorised prescriber record.
- A PBS prescriber number is allocated.
- Importantly, authorised nurse prescribers receive a PBS prescriber number but not a Medicare provider number.

#### 6. Prescriber information becomes available to downstream PBS systems

- New authorised nurse prescribers are recognised by PBS Online, claiming and authority systems.
- New prescriber type values are introduced, including 'R' for Authorised Registered Nurse Prescriber.

#### 7. Nurse applies for RTPM system access

- Nurses will be able to register for RTPM access through the Self-Service Registration Portal within their jurisdiction. Practitioner identity and registration details are automatically verified through integration with the Ahpra Practitioner Information Exchange (PIE).
- A valid PBS prescriber number is required as part of this registration process. (Note: Nurses who do not yet have a PBS prescriber number can still register for RTPM, however they will need to seek an exemption from the RTPM support team. Jurisdiction-specific RTPM websites

will provide support contact details and guidance for nurses requiring an exemption or additional assistance during registration.)

#### 8. PBS Schedule and reference data updated

- PBS Schedule data is published with registered nurse prescribing eligibility information.
- The monthly PBS Schedule data contains the prescriber code entries vendors need to consume.

#### 9. Software vendors ingest updated PBS data

- Prescribing, dispensing and **claiming vendors** consume the updated PBS Schedule/API data.
- Vendor systems must recognise the new prescriber type and any PBS item eligibility rules (per existing process for updates to rules related to particular PBS items).

#### 10. Electronic Prescribing workflow

- Prescribing software includes capability to generate prescriptions using the new prescriber type value.
- The National Prescription Delivery Service (eRx) passes the prescriber type through to dispensing software.

#### 11. Dispensing and PBS claiming

- Pharmacists dispense the prescription.
- Dispensing software must recognise and map the new nurse prescriber type code when preparing and submitting PBS claims. This was identified in the technical discussion as a key vendor change area.
- PBS Online receives the claim using the recognised nurse prescriber type.
- Existing claiming interfaces remain in place; the change is the addition of a new prescriber type value rather than a new integration channel.

## What does this mean for designated registered nurse prescribers

### 2. How does a registered nurse become eligible to prescribe?

To become a registered nurse in Australia a person applies for registration with the [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia \(NMBA\) - Applying for registration](#).

A RN can apply to the NMBA for endorsement for scheduled medicines - designated RN nurse prescriber. The NMBA [registration standard](#) outlines the necessary requirements which includes general registration, equivalent 3 years full-time clinical experience, completed approved units of study or equivalent.

### 3. How will registered nurses get their prescribing numbers?

The registered nurse applies for recognition as an authorised registered nurse prescriber through the same pathway used by other prescribers, which includes a paper-based application form or a digital application via PRODA/HPOS. Services Australia then issues a PBS prescriber number. The registered nurse does not receive a Medicare Provider Number.

Following allocation of a PBS prescriber number, together with a “R” prescriber type an authorised registered nurse prescriber will be recognised by PBS Online, claiming and authority systems.

#### 4. What workforce education and support will be available for designated registered nurse prescribers?

Services Australia has health professional [education resources for PBS prescribers](#). The [Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#) and the [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#) also provide information about designated registered nurse prescribing and endorsement requirements.

#### 5. What validation applies to designated registered nurse prescribers?

Services Australia will continue to apply existing prescriber validation when a pharmacy submits a PBS claim. PBS Online checks that the prescriber number is validly constructed, that the prescriber was active, and that the prescriber was eligible to prescribe the item at the time the prescription was written.

For PBS purposes, they may only prescribe medicines where the relevant PBS listing includes 'RN' as an approved prescriber type (recorded as 'R' in PBS data). Designated RN prescribers will be subject to their professional requirements and existing requirements for other PBS prescribers.

Vendors may choose whether to build additional validation rules/logic for their customers. The PBS Schedule remains the source for PBS item eligibility.

#### 6. Can designated registered nurse prescribers use ePrescribing?

Yes.

ePrescribing will require a registered nurse's HPI-I and the PBS prescriber number, as with other prescribers.

All nurses registered with Ahpra have a HPI-I (this is automatically assigned on Ahpra registration). Existing processes to retrieve and validate HPI-I for nurses will apply, where software products will need to be integrated with the HI service to validate HPI-I.

Currently published EP conformance (v3.0 series) mandates the inclusion of HPI-I and PBS prescriber number for any prescriber account provisioned with access to electronic prescribing. This will also apply to designated registered nurse prescribers.

The eRx payload schema to interact with the National Prescription Delivery Service (NPDS) to participate in ePrescribing has been updated to support prescribing by registered nurses (details provided in further questions below).

#### 7. Can designated registered nurse prescribers use My Health Record?

Yes.

Where the service location has an HPI-O and is registered with My Health Record, a designated registered nurse prescriber can author and upload medicines information to My Health Record. They can also view health information in their patients' My Health Record.

#### 8. Will designated registered nurses be able to prescribe everything a GP can?

Designated RN prescribers are qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply and/or use Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in partnership with an authorised health practitioner, in line with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA) standard and guidelines, and in accordance with relevant state or territory medicines and poisons legislation.

For PBS listed medicines the PBS data will identify the PBS item codes which are eligible for designated RN prescribers. Test data provided on the 19 August 2026 to the embargo vendor website shows an approximation of what will be implemented on commencement.

# What does this mean for dispensing pharmacists

## 9. What do dispensers have to do?

Dispensers are expected to follow existing processes.

For PBS purposes, designated RN prescribers will prescribe medicines where the relevant PBS listing includes 'RN' as an approved prescriber type.

When a pharmacy submits a PBS claim, the registered nurse's PBS Prescriber number and Prescriber Code ("R") will need to be provided.

## PBS changes

### 10. What PBS claiming changes are required?

Services Australia has not changed the PBS Online claiming structure. Existing PBS Online claiming formats can carry the new designated registered nurse prescriber type code.

Claiming systems must be able to send and receive the new code, but no new claiming fields, web services or structural changes are required.

### 11. How will PBS systems identify eligible medicines for this prescriber type?

The PBS Schedule identifies eligible items. For PBS purposes, a designated registered nurse prescriber may prescribe a medicine only where the relevant PBS listing includes RN as an approved prescriber type. Vendors should use the PBS Schedule data to identify eligible items. Specifically, the '/prescribers' endpoint in the PBS API and/or API download files from the vendor embargo site identify eligible item codes.

Test data was made available on the vendor embargo site on 19 August 2026 and was expected to closely approximate implementation data. Vendors should continue to use the normal monthly PBS Schedule update process and refer to the relevant PBS Schedule data tables when checking prescriber eligibility processes.

The example table below shows items eligible for RN prescribing in the PBS API data.

| pbs_code | prescriber | prescriber_type       | schedule_code |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 10001J   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10001J   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10001J   | R          | Registered Nurses     | 4730          |
| 10003L   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10003L   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10004M   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10005N   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10005N   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10005N   | R          | Registered Nurses     | 4730          |
| 10007Q   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10007Q   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10008R   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10008R   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10009T   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10009T   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10010W   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10010W   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10011X   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10011X   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10011X   | R          | Registered Nurses     | 4730          |
| 10012Y   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |
| 10012Y   | N          | Nurse Practitioners   | 4730          |
| 10012Y   | R          | Registered Nurses     | 4730          |
| 10014C   | M          | Medical Practitioners | 4730          |

## ePrescribing changes

### 12. Are eRx payloads changing?

Yes.

The eRx schema has been updated to support the new designated registered nurse prescriber type. Prescribing and dispensing software must be able to pass, receive and map the new prescriber type code. Fred IT has communicated directly with vendors and the updated schema is available on GitHub.

If a physical prescription is generated, it would follow the same format as existing scripts.

### 13. Are there changes to the ePrescribing conformance profile?

There has been no change to the ePrescribing conformance profile related to these reforms. The key ePrescribing change is the updated eRx schema to support the new prescriber type.

## Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) changes

### 14. How will Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) be affected?

Prescribing and dispensing systems use RTPM through the existing Precheck API. That API is not changing.

The Australian Digital Health Agency has worked with Fred IT to support designated registered nurse prescriber registration for jurisdictional RTPM systems.

This functionality is in place in seven of eight states and territories. New South Wales requested a deferred go-live for SafeScript NSW to 6 November 2026 because new medicines, poisons and therapeutic goods regulations commence on 5 November 2026. Activation remains a matter for NSW regulators.

### 15. What should industry do now?

**PBS changes:** Vendors should review the fact sheets and test data on the embargo site and review Services Australia's [PBS prescriber education resources](#),

**ePrescribing changes:** Vendors should review the updated eRx schema, as communicated by Fred IT and available on GitHub.

Vendors should update systems to recognise the new prescriber type code, consume updated PBS Schedule data, and test prescribing, dispensing, ePrescribing and claiming workflows before commencement. Vendors should continue to monitor updates from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Services Australia and the Australian Digital Health Agency.

Further information on the changes for PBS and ePrescribing is detailed in additional questions below.

Vendors may also review the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's [endorsement standard for designated registered nurse prescribers](#), and the Department's [designated registered nurse prescribing information](#).

## Other implementation questions

### 16. When will the reforms commence?

The Department is actively considering implementation timing in light of stakeholder feedback, system readiness, testing outcomes and broader implementation dependencies.

### 17. Will there be further tranches of change for registered nurse prescribing?

Additional listings or adjustments to the types of medicines that Registered Nurses may prescribe may be made following Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) consideration.

Any changes will be updated in the monthly PBS Schedule data updates.

### 18. What information has been made available to industry and why was it not provided sooner?

The changes were raised with industry at the Vendor Forum on 13 May 2026 and again on 18 August 2026.

Fact sheets and test data to support preparation for the change are available in the Embargo vendors site.

Fred IT has updated the eRx schema for ePrescribing and information has been communicated to participating vendors. The updated schema is available on GitHub.

The Australian Digital Health Agency has worked with Fred IT to deliver the necessary system changes to enable designated RN prescribers to register to access the respective Jurisdictional RTPM systems. Prescribing and dispensing systems are not involved in the RTPM registration process and are unaffected.

While the MSIA does not have access to the vendor portals, this information has also been provided to the MSIA for sharing with members.