



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

4 September 2026

What information is available to software vendors?

1. What information and documentation will be provided to software vendors to assist with the implementation of designated registered nurse prescribing?

The Department will publish a Vendor Resource Document, a single, version-controlled implementation guide for vendors which will bring together the rules, test data, system dependencies, readiness steps and contingency arrangements needed to safely implement designated registered nurse prescribing.

End to end process

2. 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. **Services Australia systems receive and process the feed**

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

4. **Nurse applies for PBS authorisation**

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

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

- Services Australia creates the authorised nurse 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 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 products ingest updated PBS data

- Prescribing, dispensing and claiming software products consume the updated PBS Schedule/API data.
- Prescribing, dispensing and claiming products 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. Prescribing workflow

- Prescribing software allows generation of electronic and paper-based prescriptions using the new prescriber type rules for PBS item eligibility.
- For electronic prescriptions, the National Prescription Delivery Service (eRx) passes the PBS prescriber type through to dispensing software.

11. Dispensing and PBS claiming

- The patient presents to the pharmacy, and pharmacists dispense the prescription.
- Dispensing software must recognise and map the new nurse prescriber type code from the PBS Schedule data, to support existing software functionality 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

3. 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 registered nurse can apply to the NMBA for endorsement for scheduled medicines - designated registered 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.

Once endorsed, a Designated Registered Nurse Prescriber may prescribe scheduled medicines within a partnered prescribing model, in accordance with an approved prescribing agreement, relevant clinical governance arrangements, NMBA standards and guidelines, and applicable state and territory legislation

4. How will registered nurses get their PBS prescriber numbers?

The endorsed registered nurse applies to Service Australia 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, an authorised nurse prescriber will be recognised by PBS systems.

5. How do designated registered nurses use their PBS prescriber number to issue PBS prescriptions?

Designated registered nurse prescribers will use their PBS prescriber number in the same way as other PBS prescribers. The PBS prescriber number is included on the prescription at the time of prescribing and is used by the dispensing pharmacist when submitting a claim through PBS Online. Most prescribing software captures this information when the user is established in the system as a prescriber and automatically applies the PBS prescriber number to prescriptions created by that user.

6. 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.

Registered nurses

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) provides endorsement standards, guidelines and professional requirements for designated registered nurse prescribers.

To obtain endorsement as a designated registered nurse prescriber, a registered nurse must:

- Hold current general registration as a registered nurse in Australia, with no conditions or undertakings relevant to the endorsement.
- Have the equivalent of three years' full-time post-initial registration clinical experience (5,000 hours).
- Successfully complete:
 - NMBA-approved units of study leading to endorsement for scheduled medicines as a designated registered nurse prescriber; or
 - equivalent units of study accepted by the NMBA.

To maintain endorsement, a designated registered nurse prescriber must:

- Comply with the *NMBA Guidelines for registered nurses applying for or with the endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber*, including requirements relating to prescribing relationships and governance arrangements.
- Complete a period of clinical mentorship with an authorised health practitioner during the first six months of endorsement.
- Prescribe only where there is an active prescribing arrangement with an authorised health practitioner.
- Meet any additional requirements applicable to sole practitioners or registered nurses working in private practice.

Employers and health services

A national Implementation Oversight Group, comprising representatives from jurisdictions, the Commonwealth and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, is supporting implementation across nursing and practice settings.

Available resources

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing provides information to support implementation of designated registered nurse prescribing, including:

- How the model operates.
- Prescribing agreements and mentorship arrangements.
- PBS authorisation and prescriber numbers.
- Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM).
- Practice templates and implementation resources.
- Links to jurisdictional information and requirements.

Services Australia provides education resources for PBS prescribers, including designated registered nurse prescribers. Resources cover:

- PBS prescribing arrangements.
- Applying for PBS authorisation.
- Digital PBS-enabling services.
- Educational materials to support understanding of PBS programs and services.

7. 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 registered nurse 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.

8. Are there any hardware, privacy, or location requirements specific to designated registered nurse prescribers?

Designated registered nurses will be subject to the same hardware, privacy, and location requirements that already apply in each relevant clinical setting. No additional restrictions will apply.

9. Can designated registered nurse prescribers use ePrescribing?

Yes. Electronic Prescribing (ePrescribing) will require a designated 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.

The existing Electronic Prescribing Connecting Systems Profile^[1] already includes conformance requirements covering key prescriber identity and authentication elements, including prescriber number and HPI-I requirements under **PRES-4** (see Table below).

Table 1: PRES- 4 requirements

PRES-4	User accounts with electronic prescribing capability SHALL contain the user's: • Full Name • PBS Prescriber Number, where they have one • Healthcare Provider Identifier - Individual (HPI-I).
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^[1] [Electronic Prescribing - Technical Framework Documents v3.0 | Digital Health Implementer Hub](#)

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

10. Can designated registered nurse prescribers use My Health Record?

Yes. Where the healthcare organisation has an HPI-O and is registered to participate in My Health Record, a designated registered nurse prescriber can author and upload medicines information to My Health Record. They can also view their patient's health information in their My Health Record.

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

Designated registered nurse prescribing is a partnered prescribing model, where the nurse prescriber works in partnership with an authorised health practitioner. A designated registered nurse prescriber will be able to prescribe within their scope and in accordance with their authorisation. Designated registered nurse prescribers are expected to understand, apply and comply with the NMBA [standard](#) and guidelines, and relevant state and territory legislation, for the purposes of the practice of nursing.

Designated registered nurse 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. Please see question 11 for further information.

12. Has designated registered nurse prescribing been enabled in all jurisdictions?

Legislation to enable designated registered nurse prescribing has been enacted in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Norther Territory and Tasmania. Legislative amendments are currently progressing in Western Australia, Queensland, and Victoria.

New South Wales is currently the only jurisdiction with explicit legislative provisions for designated registered nurse prescribers, including additional approval for certain Schedule 8 prescribing circumstances.

What does this mean for dispensing pharmacists

13. What do dispensers have to do?

Dispensers are expected to follow existing processes. Pharmacists are expected to continue to undertake their usual professional and clinical checks when dispensing medicines prescribed by designated registered nurse prescribers.

For PBS purposes, designated registered nurse prescribers will prescribe medicines where the relevant PBS listing includes 'RN' as an approved prescriber type (recorded as 'R' in PBS data).

When a pharmacy submits a PBS claim, the registered nurse's PBS Prescriber number will need to be provided.

PBS changes

14. What PBS claiming changes are required?

Services Australia has not changed the PBS Online claiming structure. Existing PBS Online claiming formats and functionality can support claiming of designated registered nurse prescriber prescriptions.

Dispensing/claiming software products must be able to consume the new code from PBS schedule data, but no new claiming fields, web services or structural changes are required.

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

The PBS Schedule identifies eligible prescriber types for all PBS items.

For PBS purposes, a designated registered nurse prescriber may prescribe a medicine only where the relevant PBS listing includes designated registered nurse as an approved prescriber type (recorded as 'R' in PBS data). 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.

New data files, including the full set of approved Registered Nurse prescriber items for this release, are being prepared. They are expected to be released during the week of 7-11 September 2026.

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 designated registered nurse 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

16. 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.

17. Are there changes to the ePrescribing conformance profile?

No. The introduction of designated registered nurse prescribing will not impact existing electronic prescribing conformance requirements or associated conformance testing activities. The key change is the updated eRx schema to support the new prescriber type, which has been completed by Fred IT.

18. Are there any other impacts on the NPDS or accreditation process?

No. The changes to support designated registered nurse prescribing do not alter the NPDS accreditation process, and existing vendors will not need to recomplete accreditation.

Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) changes

19. 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. Decisions on when RTPM registration opens for designated registered nurse prescribers will be made by each jurisdiction.

What should industry do now?

20. What are the next steps for vendors?

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

Electronic Prescribing changes: Prescribing and dispensing 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

21. When will the reforms commence?

Implementation of designated registered nurse prescribing is dependent on completion of a range of necessary legislative, regulatory and system readiness activities across multiple organisations, states and territories and the Commonwealth.

The Department has communicated that 1 October 2026 is the commencement date. Any further information related to implementation arrangements will be provided on the Department's website or through official channel <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/designated-registered-nurse-prescribing>

The Department continues to work closely with Services Australia, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, states and territories, software vendors and other implementation partners to support implementation.

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

Additional listings or adjustments to the types of medicines that designated 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.

23. 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 registered nurse 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.

24. Who can I contact for more information:

- For central co-ordination matters relating to this policy change please contact: eprescribing@health.gov.au
- For enquiries relating to the Designated Registered Nurse Prescribing please contact: HPAD@health.gov.au
- For enquiries relating to PBS API data please contact: HPP.Support@health.gov.au
- For enquiries relating to PBS Online Claiming please contact Services Australia through existing PBS Developer Support channels
- For enquiries relating to electronic prescribing conformance requirements, please contact the Australia Digital Health Agency at: conformance.design@digitalhealth.gov.au