



Australian Government

Department of Health

Electronic National Residential Medication Charts (eNRMC)

Transitional Arrangement Prescriber Information Pack



The eNRMC Transitional Arrangement – an overview

The Department of Health (the Department) is implementing an eNRMC “Transitional Arrangement” from 1 July 2022. The Arrangement will allow all Residential Aged Care Services (RACs) to begin adopting and benefiting from eNRMC products.

RACs, prescribers and pharmacists can use Transitional eNRMC Products for PBS medication chart prescribing, dispensing and administration. However, Transitional eNRMC Products cannot yet transmit prescriptions to a Prescription Delivery Service (PDS). Prescribers do not need to write a supporting paper prescription if they are using a Transitional eNRMC Product. However, prescribers and pharmacists must follow specific prescribing, dispensing and claiming requirements under the Transitional Arrangement.

The government is enacting the Transitional Arrangement through an amendment to the eNRMC Trial Legislation: *National Health (Electronic National Residential Medication Chart Trial) Special Arrangement 2018*. The legislation allows RACs, MPSs and NATISFAC services that provide residential aged care to adopt Transitional eNRMC Products under the Transitional Arrangement. Although this federal legislation allows RACs to participate Australia-wide, these products must also meet any [state or territory requirements](#) if they wish to participate.

The Transitional Arrangement is an interim measure while PDS and dispensing software meet the latest Electronic Prescribing conformance requirements. Once PDS and dispensing software have met the requirements, RACs can then update their product to the CPv3.0 Conformant eNRMC Product. This will allow eNRMC Products to send electronic medication chart prescriptions to the PDS, from where pharmacy dispensing software can retrieve them. The Transitional Arrangement will then end.

Residential Aged Care Services

For the purposes of this Arrangement, “RACs” encompasses standard Residential Aged Care Services, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program residential services and Multi-Purpose Services that provide residential aged care services. RACs can use the funding provided through the eNRMC Adoption grant opportunity to help cover the costs of adoption.

What are the benefits of using an eNRMC product?

An eNRMC system benefits residents, providers, aged care staff, prescribers, and suppliers, by:

- removing the need for paper-based prescriptions and medication charts,
- decreasing medication safety risks, such as inconsistencies between prescriber records and paper medication charts, also lessening time spent by suppliers reconciling these differences,
- increasing visibility of residents’ medication records for prescribers, suppliers, and aged care staff,
- providing alerts to advise of allergies or medication interactions, and reminders when new prescriptions or follow-up consultations will soon be required,
- providing real-time electronic collaboration and communication tools,
- reducing administrative burden for aged care providers and staff, prescribers, and suppliers, and
- reducing the number of regular medications taken by an individual (polypharmacy).

An eNRMC system enables aged care staff, prescribers, and suppliers to reduce medication errors and gain greater flexibility and coordination in the way their services are delivered. It also supports consumer-centred care and enhances communication between all those supporting the resident's clinical care.

I'm a prescriber at a RACS that has adopted a Transitional eNRMC. What do I need to do?

Prescribers servicing RACSs that have adopted a Transitional eNRMC Product must:

- follow all PBS prescribing legislation (including state and territory legislation relevant to their location)
- ask for prescribing access to the Transitional eNRMC Product through the RACS

What medicines can be prescribed under the Transitional Arrangement?

Summary	Transitional eNRMC	Restrictions
General schedule PBS medicines (no authority requirements)	YES	Nil. Can be prescribed and supplied for duration of chart.
PBS Items requiring Streamlined Authority (Non-Schedule 8)	YES	Nil. Can be prescribed and supplied for duration of chart.
Schedule 8 medicines (Streamlined)	YES	PBS listing restrictions and maximum quantities must be observed. Cannot be prescribed and supplied for duration of chart.
PBS Items requiring Telephone or Written Authority Approval (including Schedule 8) (For written authority approvals, printed paper copy of the eNRMC must be submitted to Services Australia)	YES	Duration of supply based on PBS authority approval. Prescriber must enter cease date corresponding to authority approval.
PBS Section 100 medicines	NO	Cannot be prescribed using Transitional eNRMC products

State or Territory permits/approvals may be required.

The duration of electronic medication charts made using Transitional eNRMC Products is 4 months.

What will prescribing, dispensing and claiming workflow look like under the Transitional Arrangement?

1. The prescriber logs into the Transitional eNRMC Product to create or amend a medication chart order
2. The pharmacist accesses the Transitional eNRMC Product and views the medication chart order in real time. The pharmacist must transcribe the electronic medication chart prescription information into the dispensing software. The pharmacist can annotate and send messages to the prescriber and RACS in the Transitional eNRMC Product.
3. The pharmacist dispenses the medication as prescribed
4. The pharmacist sends the medication to the RACS for administration

5. The RACS records all administration events in the medication chart at the point of administration

Is an eNRMC mandatory?

Adoption of an eNRMC product is not mandatory and paper NRMCs will continue to be valid medication charts in RACSS. Residents or their substitute decision makers should have the opportunity to opt out of electronic medication chart prescribing and ensure choice of their supplying pharmacy. This is consistent with the current Quality Standard on consumer choice. However, the Department encourages the adoption and use of a conformant eNRMC product to support safe and accountable medication management.

Further Information

For further information concerning the transitional arrangement and eNRMC, please contact the department of health at eNRMC@health.gov.au.

For clarifications about PBS and RPBS claiming information requirements for an eNRMC, please contact Services Australia at devsupport@servicesaustralia.gov.au