

# Position Statement

## National residential medication chart

### Background

The medication chart initiative aims to improve the safety of medication management in residential aged care facilities through standardised medication charting and medication management practice. The National Residential Medication Chart (NRMC) enables supply and pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS) claiming without a separate PBS prescription. The Australian Government passed changes to the *National Health Act 1953* to allow PBS claiming to occur. A pharmacist can now be reimbursed for dispensing a maximum PBS quantity of an eligible prescription-only medicine using an approved NRMC.

### An approved chart

Residential aged care services will need to organise their own supply of the NRMC charts. Details on how to obtain an approved chart as well as guidelines for pharmacists and nursing staff are available via the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care at [www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/nrmc/](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/nrmc/).

### Queensland legislation

A prescriber must add his or her qualifications to the NRMC to meet the prescription requirements of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 (the Regulation) at [www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealDrAPoR96.pdf](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealDrAPoR96.pdf) (excluding requirements for controlled drugs). For residential aged care service operators who wish to take advantage of the NRMC using a commercial version of the chart, it is important that the commercial product be compliant with both state and Commonwealth legislation.

### Queensland Department of Health position:

- Pharmacists in Queensland can dispense a prescribed medicine from a residential aged care medication chart if:
  - the medication chart meets the requirements of the National Health (Residential Medication Chart) Determination 2012 (the Determination) at [www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/National-Health-Residential-Medication-Chart-Determination-2012.pdf](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/National-Health-Residential-Medication-Chart-Determination-2012.pdf), *note the Determination does not include controlled drugs (schedule 8)*
  - a prescriber includes their qualifications on the medication chart (stamp or hand written on the front page next to the prescribers signature)
- All orders on the medication chart are only valid for dispensing if dispensed by a pharmacist for a maximum of four months from the first date a medication is ordered on the medication chart *or* up to the expiry date that appears on the front page of the medication chart, whichever comes first.
- All other Regulation requirements for restricted drugs are on the medication chart, including but not limited to:

- the prescribers name, professional qualifications and address
  - the date of prescribing and signature of prescriber (in the prescription box for each medication prescribed)
  - the name of the resident and the address (RACF address)
  - the name of the drug, quantity or volume (in figures)
  - adequate directions about the use of the drug (drug name, dose, route, frequency, start date and/or duration of treatment)
  - if the restricted drug is a regulated restricted drug the prescriber must write 'Approved' following the drug name on the medication chart.
- Prescribers are still required to comply with s192 of the Regulation regarding an oral prescription. A 'phone order' on the medication chart does not constitute a prescription (this is also a requirement of the Determination). For example, if a phone order is recorded on the medication chart by the nurse(s) at the RACF, the doctor then needs to ring the pharmacist directly to inform them of the order. Within 24 hours the doctor must then provide the pharmacist with a traditional script.
  - A medication chart that is deemed to be a valid prescription under the Determination and the Regulation can be faxed, scanned and faxed, or scanned and emailed.
  - Any other requirements of the Regulation not specifically noted in this position statement still apply.
  - It is the responsibility of the pharmacist, prescriber and nursing staff to be familiar with the requirements of the Determination and the Regulation.

## Further information

- Information and resources is available via the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care at [www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/nrmc/](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/nrmc/).

## Contact details

For more information about the legislation and your regulatory obligations, please contact your local public health unit at [www.health.qld.gov.au/cho/default.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/cho/default.asp).

### Health Care Regulation Unit

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