



# **National Health (Transitional Electronic National Residential Medication Chart) Special Arrangement 2025**

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I, Matthew Castle, Acting Assistant Secretary, Care, Integration and Access Branch, make the following Special Arrangement.

Dated 25 September 2025

Matthew Castle  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Care Integration and Access Branch  
Medicare Benefits and Digital Health Division  
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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# Part 1—Preliminary

## 1 Name

- (1) This instrument is the *National Health (Transitional Electronic National Residential Medication Chart) Special Arrangement 2025*.
- (2) This Special Arrangement may also be cited as PB 119 of 2025

## 2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	1 October 2025.	1 October 2025

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

## 3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsections 100(1) and 100(2) of the *National Health Act 1953*.

## 4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) Chief Executive Medicare;
- (b) Secretary.

In this instrument:

*Act* means the *National Health Act 1953*.

*approved supplier* has the same meaning as in Part VII of the Act.

*authority approval number* has the meaning given by the Regulations.

*CTS claim* has the same meaning as in Part VII of the Act.

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**electronic medication order** means an order for a pharmaceutical benefit made using an electronic medication chart.

**electronic medication chart** means a chart within an electronic medication chart system, for a person, that contains all the standard fields set out in the Schedule ‘Medication Chart Form – For PBS/RPBS Medication Chart prescriptions for persons receiving treatment in or at a residential care service at which the person is receiving residential care’ to the Instrument of Approval for PBS National Residential Medication Charts, as in force at the start of 1 October 2025.

Note: The Instrument of Approval is available free of charge at [www.health.gov.au/resources/publications](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications).

**electronic medication chart system** means a software system, owned and operated by a software vendor, that:

- (a) is used for prescribing and recording the administration of pharmaceutical benefits to persons receiving residential care at a residential care service; and
- (b) is accessible by approved suppliers for the purpose of viewing and annotating electronic medication charts created using the system; and
- (c) does not allow electronic medication charts, or electronic medication orders, created using the system to be sent to the national prescription delivery service.

**electronic medication order unique identification number** means a number issued to an electronic medication order in an electronic medication chart system.

**PBS prescriber** has the same meaning as in Part VII of the Act.

**pharmaceutical benefit** has the same meaning as in Part VII of the Act.

**Regulations** means the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 2017*.

**residential care** has the meaning given by the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

**residential care service** has the meaning given by the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

**Rules** means the *National Health (Supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits—Under Copayment Data and Claims for Payment) Rules 2022*.

**transitional conformant electronic medication chart system** means an electronic medication chart system that is listed on the Transitional eNRMC Conformance Register.

**Transitional eNRMC Conformance Register** means the register with that name maintained by the Australian Digital Health Agency as existing on 1 October 2025.

Note: The Transitional eNRMC Conformance Register is accessible through the Australian Digital Health Agency’s website (<http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au>).

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## 5 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

## Part 2—Special arrangements for prescribing, supply and claiming of pharmaceutical benefits

### 6 Pharmaceutical benefits covered by this Special Arrangement

- (1) This Special Arrangement applies to each pharmaceutical benefit which is generally available for supply under Part VII of the Act.
- (2) This Special Arrangement does not apply to a pharmaceutical benefit that can only be supplied under Part VII of the Act in accordance with any other Special Arrangement under section 100 of the Act.
- (3) This Special Arrangement does not apply to the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit in circumstances in which the supply may only be made under Part VII of the Act in accordance with any other Special Arrangement under section 100 of the Act.

Note: The Minister can:

- (a) declare under subsection 85(2A) of the Act that a particular drug may only be supplied under special arrangements made under section 100; and
- (b) determine under paragraph 85(8)(a) of the Act that a particular pharmaceutical benefit may only be supplied under special arrangements made under section 100; and
- (c) determine under paragraph 85(8)(b) of the Act that one or more of the circumstances in which a prescription for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit may be written are circumstances under which the benefit may only be supplied under special arrangements made under section 100.

### 7 Application of Part VII of the Act

- (1) Each pharmaceutical benefit supplied in accordance with this Special Arrangement is supplied under Part VII of the Act.
- (2) A provision of Part VII of the Act, or of the Regulations or other instruments made for Part VII of the Act, applies subject to this Special Arrangement.

Note: See subsection 100(3) of the Act.

### 8 Prescribing of pharmaceutical benefits

*Writing prescriptions by completing an electronic medication chart*

- (1) A PBS prescriber may only prescribe a pharmaceutical benefit under this Special Arrangement by creating an electronic medication order within an electronic

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medication chart in accordance with the requirements of section 41 of the Regulations, as modified by this section.

- (2) A prescription for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit under this Special Arrangement may only be made:
  - (a) for a person receiving residential care at a residential care service; and
  - (b) using a transitional conformant electronic medication chart system.

*Creating electronic medication orders - generally*

- (3) Paragraphs 41(2)(c) and 41(2)(g) of the Regulations do not apply to the creation of an electronic medication order within an electronic medication chart.

Note: The exclusion of paragraph 41(2)(g) enables prescriptions using electronic medication orders to be made under the Special Arrangement for pharmaceutical benefits that are referred to in Schedule 8 of the current Poisons Standard (within the meaning of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*). PBS prescribers and approved suppliers remain subject to any restrictions on prescribing or dispensing Schedule 8 drugs in applicable state or territory legislation.

- (4) The PBS prescriber must electronically approve the prescription in the electronic medication chart system.

*Creating electronic medication orders - authority prescriptions*

- (5) The electronic medication order must contain each authority approval number or relevant streamlined authority code (if any) for the prescription.
- (6) A prescription for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit made in accordance with this section is, for the purposes of the Regulations (other than section 61) and the Rules, taken, to be a medication chart prescription written in accordance with section 41 of the Regulations.

*Prescription in paper-based form is not required*

- (7) The PBS prescriber is not required to also provide the prescription in paper-based form.

## **9 Supply of pharmaceutical benefits**

- (1) An approved supplier may supply a pharmaceutical benefit under this Special Arrangement to a person receiving residential care in a residential care service if the prescription for the pharmaceutical benefit was created using a transitional conformant electronic medication chart system and was made available to the approved supplier, before the pharmaceutical benefit is supplied.
- (2) Sections 45, 47 and 51 of the Regulations apply to the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit by an approved supplier under this Special Arrangement, with the following modifications:
  - (a) a reference to a medication chart prescription is taken to be a reference to an electronic medication order;

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- (b) section 45 applies as if:
    - (i) it required the approved supplier, or a person authorised for the purpose by the approved supplier, to verify in the electronic medication order that the pharmaceutical benefit has been supplied and the date on which it was supplied; and
    - (ii) paragraph 45(2)(c) were omitted;
  - (c) a reference in section 51 to writing “immediate supply necessary” on the prescription is taken to be a reference to including those words in the electronic medication order.

## 10 Claims for supply of pharmaceutical benefit

- (1) An approved supplier may make a claim for payment for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit under this Special Arrangement in accordance with the Rules, as modified by this section.
- (2) Where a claim for payment for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit of a kind mentioned in subsection (3) is made, for item 25 of the table in clause 1 of Schedule 1 to the Rules, the Patient Category details for a patient in the Residential aged care facility patient (medication chart prescription) category are 0 (zero).
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the kind of supply of a pharmaceutical benefit is a supply using software made available by Fred IT Group Pty Ltd (ABN 68 109 546 901) and which is:
  - (a) a supply where writing the prescription for the supply required authorisation by the Chief Executive Medicare under section 19 of the *National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Instrument 2024* (not including where writing the prescription was taken to have been authorised); or
  - (b) a supply of a pharmaceutical benefit having a drug (within the meaning of Part VII of the Act) that is referred to in Schedule 8 of the current Poisons Standard (within the meaning of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*).
- (4) If the Chief Executive Medicare notifies the approved supplier in writing that a copy of the electronic medication order is required to be submitted, the approved supplier must submit a copy of the electronic medication order to the Department administered by the Minister who administers the *Human Services (Centrelink) Act 1997*.

### *Electronic pharmacy records*

- (5) For each supply of pharmaceutical benefit based on an electronic medication order in respect of which a claim is made under section 99AAA of the Act by an approved supplier, the supplier must:
  - (a) prepare an electronic pharmacy record; and
  - (b) retain the electronic pharmacy record for not less than two years after the day on which the pharmaceutical benefit was supplied.

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Note: This subsection establishes record keeping requirements that correspond to the requirements contained in section 61 of the Regulations.

- (6) The electronic pharmacy record must contain all information required to be given to the Secretary by an approved supplier in relation to the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit to a person receiving residential care in a residential care service by Schedule 1 to the Rules for a CTS claim.
- (7) If the Chief Executive Medicare notifies the approved supplier in writing that a copy of an electronic pharmacy record is required to be submitted, the approved supplier must submit a copy of the record to the Department administered by the Minister who administers the *Human Services (Centrelink) Act 1997*.
- (8) A notification given under subsection (4) or (7) may apply to one or more electronic medication orders or electronic pharmacy records, as appropriate.

## Part 3—Application and transitional arrangements

### 11 Definitions

In this Part:

- (a) **former Special Arrangement** means the *National Health (Electronic National Residential Medication Chart Trial) Special Arrangement 2018*, as in force immediately before the transition time;
- (b) **transition time** means 1 October 2025;
- (c) **transitional prescription** means a prescription for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit under the former Special Arrangement that was made:
  - (i) before the transition time; and
  - (ii) in accordance with section 41 of the Regulations as modified by section 7 of the former Special Arrangement.

### 12 Supplies made on transitional prescriptions

Despite the repeal of the former Special Arrangement, section 9 of the former Special Arrangement continues to apply to the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit based on a transitional prescription, as if the repeal had not happened, whether the supply was made before, on or after the transition time.

### 13 Claims for supplies made on transitional prescriptions

- (1) This section applies where a claim for payment is made after the transition time for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit made on the basis of a transitional prescription, whether the supply was made before, on or after the transition time.
- (2) Despite the repeal of the former Special Arrangement, section 10 of the former Special Arrangement continues to apply to the claim, as if the repeal had not happened

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## **Schedule 1—Repeals**

### ***National Health (Electronic National Residential Medication Chart Trial) Special Arrangement 2018***

#### **1 The whole of the instrument**

Repeal the instrument.