AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

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NIMC User Guide

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Introduction

The National Inpatient Medication Chart (NIMC) is a standardised tool for communicating patient medication information consistently between health professionals. It is based on standardised processes for medicines prescribing, dispensing, administering and reconciling in health service organisations. A national, standard medication chart ensures that health professionals are familiar with the layout of the chart and the safe medication management principles on which it is based no matter where they practice. Use of the NIMC is mandatory for all Australian public and private health service organisations including day procedure services. The evidence-based principles that guided development of the NIMC are applicable to all healthcare settings. Because it is national standard, the NIMC is incorporated into health professional under-graduate curricula and into safe medication management competency frameworks and materials. Health professionals are familiar with the NIMC from their first day in practice. The NIMC reflects best practice and is evidence-based. It is designed to assist health professionals improve the safety and quality of medication management. It is also intended as a tool to minimise the risk of adverse medication events.

Consistent documentation allows accurate interpretation of orders

Research shows that many adverse events reported in Australian health service organisations are associated with medicines. Research also demonstrates that standardisation and improvements to medication chart design can improve the safety of medication processes. The NIMC was developed by a group of health care professionals (including public and private sector nursing, medical and pharmacy staff) from states and territories across Australia and who were often involved in similar medication chart standardising projects within their own health service organisations.

Australian Health Ministers required a common inpatient medication chart to reduce the incidence of preventable patient harm by standardising and consistently documenting medicines. As demonstrated in the Commission's 2008 *NIMC Quality Improvement Project* and subsequent NIMC national audits, the NIMC is used widely in healthcare facilities nationally and reduces key risks of prescribing and administration error.

Nationally maintained support materials

The NIMC is supported by a large range of nationally consistent and maintained resources. These include resources for health professional education, guidance on use of the NIMC and NIMC auditing resources. A full list of the NIMC supporting resources is available at Attachment A of this document.

Use exceptions

The NIMC is not designed for charting and recording administration of:

- enteral nutritional supplements or
- medical gases

See Appendices C and D for additional information on these issues.

Electronic medication management systems

The NIMC represents national agreement on standardised presentation and communication of medication information and the processes which underpin them. It is a sound basis for future electronic medication management initiatives. The Commission encourages safe implementation of electronic systems to improve medication safety and quality and works with other national organisations to achieve a nationally consistent approach to it.

Electronic Medication Management Systems: A Guide to Safe Implementation (2nd Edition) was produced by the Commission and the National E-Health Transition Authority to assist health service organisations specify and implement electronic medication management systems (EMMS) safely. It is intended to: reduce expensive and inefficient duplication of effort specifying EMMS and planning for implementation optimise the safety and effectiveness of EMMS implementation

minimise the danger of poorly designed or resourced EMMS implementation.

In addition, there is a supplement to the guide which provides analysis of issues to be considered when incorporating specialist functions into EMMS such as infusions, chemotherapy, renal dialysis and paediatrics. Finally, a template EMMS implementation plan is available which health service organisations can use as the base planning document for electronic medication management system implementation. All the resources are available from the Commission web site at www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/electronic-medication-management-systems/

Purpose of the NIMC

The NIMC is a suite of nationally standard medication charts, both paper and electronic, that present and communicate information consistently between healthcare professionals providing care to patients on the intended use of medicines for an individual patient.

Its purpose is to reduce the risk of prescribing, dispensing and administration error by health professionals through standardised presentation of information on the intended use of medicines for an individual patient, and through standardised presentation of medicines information in all high risk healthcare settings.

NIMC use mandated requirement for accreditation

Use of the NIMC is a mandatory requirement for health service organisations seeking accreditation against National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standard 4 Medication Safety.

Medication management in health service organisations should also accord with other NSQHS Standards including NSQHS Standard 5, Patient Identification and Procedure Matching. The requirement on health service organisations is to use relevant NIMCs which have been agreed nationally and which incorporate the NIMC elements and layouts.

Electronic medication management systems are required to incorporate the full range of NIMC safety features as a minimum.

Non-conforming medication charts:

- will not be verifiable for accreditation purposes
- cannot be audited through use of the NIMC Audit System
- are not reflected in any nationally maintained support materials including education resources
- may create medico-legal risks for health service organisations in the event of patient harm related to medication misadventure.

Managing the NIMC locally

The NIMC can be managed locally by health service organisations. The NIMC Local Management Guidelines provide detailed guidance on the scope of changes to the NIMC which can be authorised at local levels (i.e. state / territory, private health service chain / local hospital network and individual health service organisation). It describes the process for managing NIMC issues which cannot be managed locally and which need to be referred to the national level for consideration. The NIMC Local Management Guidelines are available at http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/NIMC-Local-Management-Guidelines.pdf

Application of adhesive labels to the NIMC

There may be circumstances where use of an adhesive label to alert staff to a medicine or medicine(s) are appropriate. However, use of adhesive labels as a mechanism to alert should be used judiciously and considered within the health service organisation's context. There should be a process around their application, ensuring they do not obscure a pre-existing medicine order. There is no guarantee that labels will be applied consistently and health services considering the use of such labels should undertake an assessment of their effectiveness prior to broader implementation.

Application of adhesive labels to constitute a medicine order is generally not advised. Health services considering use of adhesive labels in this way should contact the relevant <u>Pharmaceutical Services Branch</u> for their jurisdiction in the first instance to determine whether the practice is permitted. Where use of labels is accepted, a risk assessment approach must be used to determine the safety and effectiveness of their use. Any risks identified must be addressed prior to implementation.

Limitations of this guide

The NIMC User Guide provides guidance and best practice advice to health service organisations on use of the national inpatient medication chart.

The Commission recognises that some jurisdictions have made state-wide modifications to the standard national chart. For information regarding these changes, the relevant representative from the Health Services Medication Expert Advisory Group or health department should be contacted.

Legislative requirements for prescribing, administering and dispensing medicines vary between jurisdictions.

While every effort has been made to incorporate relevant legislative information in this guide, some of the more specific requirements or limitations may not be discussed. It is the responsibility of each health service organisation to know and comply with legislation relevant to their jurisdiction.

NIMC versions

The NIMC is a suite of standard medication charts. Use of the NIMC is mandatory and can be demonstrated by implementation and use of one, or more, of the following NIMC versions. Charts are available in formats designed for private health services.

All versions of the NIMC are available from the Commission web site in low and high resolution PDF files. Design files can be requested by contacting the Commission directly on mail@safetyandquality.gov.au

1. NIMC (acute)

The NIMC (acute) is a medication chart designed for patients in acute care. It is used across health service organisations in medical and surgical wards, emergency departments and intensive care units. The NIMC (acute) available on the Commission web site has 10.5 days of administration.

2. NIMC (long-stay)

The NIMC (long-stay) is designed for long-term, stable adult patients in acute care. For example, the NIMC (long-stay) may be suitable for patients in spinal units and rehabilitation units. The NIMC (long-stay) available on the Commission web site has 28.5 days of administration.

3. NIMC (paediatric) and NIMC (paediatric long stay)

In 2008, Australian Health Ministers endorsed paediatric versions of the NIMC (acute) and NIMC (long stay). The paediatric NIMCs have additional features to improve prescribing safety for paediatric inpatients including neonates. These charts should be used for all children aged 12 years and less. Use of the safety features specific to the paediatric NIMCs is outlined in Section 8 of this guide. Unless otherwise indicated, all other guidance in this document is relevant to the paediatric NIMCs.

4. NIMC in private health service organisations

Private health service organisations often face a unique challenge in relation to safe medication charting. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme requires separate, signed prescriptions for each medication order and pharmacy arrangements often require separate paper-based orders for dispensing. Private health service organisation versions of the NIMCs include the same design and safety features but incorporate tear away sections for pharmacy orders and Medicare Australia claiming purposes.

5. NIMC (GP e-version)

General practitioners who prescribe for inpatients (usually in rural and remote health service organisations) need to issue medicine orders in NIMC compliant formats. To accommodate this requirement, the NIMC (GP e-version), a four A4 page version, was developed for incorporation in general practice electronic prescribing software. This allows general practitioners to print out medicine orders for inpatients in the NIMC (acute) format and permits recording of inpatient medicines administration using the standard NIMC process. Additional advice on use of the NIMC (e-version) forms Appendix E to this guide.

6. NIMC (day surgery)

The NIMC (day surgery) is a two-side A4 medication chart which has no regular medicine order spaces. It incorporates standard NIMC features as well as features suitable for day procedure services:

- IV fluid administration
- VTE risk assessment section without prophylaxis ordering

7. Clozapine titration chart

The clozapine titration chart is intended to be used as a record of the prescribing, monitoring and administration of clozapine titration for adult patients. It is used in conjunction with the NIMC (acute) or NIMC (long-stay) or the private health service organisation versions of them.

When clozapine is used for maintenance treatment, the NIMC (acute) or NIMC (long-stay) or private health service organisation versions should be used. Guidance on the use of the clozapine titration chart is available in a separate document to the NIMC User Guide.

8. Subcutaneous insulin chart (adult)

The Commission will pilot a subcutaneous insulin chart from mid-2015 to mid-2016. A final version of the subcutaneous insulin chart is expected to be available late 2016. More information on the National Subcutaneous Insulin Chart Pilot is available at http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/

9. National Medication Management Plan

The National Medication Management Plan (MMP) provides health service organisations with a standardised form that can be used by nursing, medical, pharmacy and allied health staff to improve the accuracy of information recorded on admission and is available to the clinician responsible for therapeutic decision making.

A standardised form to record the medicines taken prior to presentation at the health service organisation and used for reconciling patients' medicines on admission, intra-health service transfer and at discharge is considered essential for the medication reconciliation process. The national MMP provides Australian health service organisations with a form designed specifically for these purposes The national MMP is designed for use in adult and paediatric patients.

3.1 General requirements

- All prescribers must order medicines for inpatients consistent with state or territory health regulations.
- The NIMC is to be completed for all patients and placed at the foot of the bed unless ward/unit procedures state otherwise.
- All medicines should be reviewed regularly to identify potential drug interactions and to discontinue medicines that are no longer required.
- Specific ordering charts may be required for specialised medicine orders such as insulin, intravenous fluids, anticoagulants, parenteral cytotoxic and immunosuppressive agents, epidural and regional infusion and patient-controlled analgesia.

3.2 Writing orders

All orders are to be written legibly in ink

- No matter how accurate or complete an order is, it may be misinterpreted if it cannot be read.
- Water soluble ink (e.g. fountain pen) should not be used.
- Black ink is preferred.
- A medicine order is valid only if the prescriber enters all the required items.
- All information, including medicine names, should be printed.
- No erasers or "whiteout" can be used. Orders MUST be rewritten if **any** changes are made, especially changes to dose and/or frequency.

3.3 Abbreviations, symbols and terminology

Australia has agreed national standards for terminology, abbreviations and symbols used in the prescribing and administration of medicines. It provides:

- Principles for consistent prescribing terminology
- A set of recommended terms and acceptable abbreviations
- A list of error-prone abbreviations, symbols and dose designations that have a history of causing error and must be avoided.

Recommendations for Terminology. Abbreviations and Symbols used in the Prescribing and Administration of Medicines is available from the Commission's web site.

3.4 Essential prescribing requirements

Date

The date that the medicine order was written should be entered. It is not the date that the medicine was originally ordered. The prescriber will need to locate the original order date if required.

Generic (active ingredient) medicine name

Because there may be several brands of one agent available, the generic name should be used if possible unless combination preparations are being ordered e.g. Movicol. Generally the pharmacy department will stock and supply only one brand of each generic medicine.

Route

Only commonly used and understood abbreviations should be used to indicate the route of administration.

Generally, medicine orders should be for one route only. However, local requirements may indicate other practice. Health services should be aware of risks associated with medicine orders with multiple routes of administration. A health service-specific list of exceptions to the general rule should be determined in conjunction with the health service's drug and therapeutics committee or equivalent and appropriate risk mitigation strategies put in place.

Dose

Doses must be written using metric and Arabic e.g. 1,2,3, etc. systems. **Never** use Roman numerals e.g. i, ii, iii, iv, etc. Acceptable abbreviations are listed below. Always use zero (**0**.) before a decimal point e.g. 0.5g otherwise the decimal point may be missed. However if possible it is preferable to state the dose in whole numbers, not decimals e.g. write 500mg instead of 0.5g or write 125microgram instead of 0.125mg.

Never use a trailing zero (**.0**) as it may be misread if the decimal point is missed e.g. 1.0 misread as 10. Do not use U or IU for units because it may be misread as zero. Always write **units** in full. Also see Section 8 for paediatric NIMCs.

Note: In the case of liquid medicines, the strength and the dose in milligrams or micrograms (not millilitres) must always be specified e.g. morphine mixture (10mg/mL) Give 10mg every 8 hours **Note:** The ward/clinical pharmacist will clarify when the strength supplied is different from that ordered e.g. for 10mg the pharmacist may write 2 x 5mg tablets or for 25mg the pharmacist may write half a 50mg tablet.

Frequency and administration times

The prescriber ordering a regular medicine **must** enter the frequency and administration time(s) when writing the order. This will prevent errors where the person administering the order misinterprets the frequency and writes down the wrong times. If these details are not entered, the dose may not be administered by nursing staff.

Times should be entered using the 24 hour clock which is the universal standard.

Medicines should be administered according to the **Recommended Administration Times** unless they must be given at specific times (e.g. some antibiotics, with/before food) or, as in the case of young children with variable meal and sleep schedules, a specific schedule is required.

If necessary, the ward/clinical pharmacist or nurse will clarify the administration time to correctly administer the drug (e.g. in relation to food) and annotate the NIMC to indicate it has occurred.

Indication

Most NIMC order spaces require the prescriber to document the indication. Indication is critical clinical information for other health professionals involved in medicines management. It allows the order to be reviewed in the context of why the medicine was prescribed, reducing the risk of misinterpretation of the order e.g. medicines with look-a-like names or incorrect doses and for medicines which have different doses for different indications.

Prescriber Signature and Print Name

The signature of the prescriber must be written to complete each medicine order. For each signature (prescriber), their name must be written in print at least once on that medication chart. Private health service NIMC versions generally require a prescriber number as well.

3.5 Essential administration requirements

Accurately recording medicines administration is a critical part of safe medication management and can reduce the risk of medication error through inadvertent under or over-dosing. Those administering medicines also play an important role in identifying prescribing and dispensing errors before they reach the patient.

Always remember the following safety checking list:

Right medicine (that matches the order and the patient's condition)

Right dose (that matches the order and is safe for the patient)

Right route (that matches the order and is appropriate for the medicine and the patient) **Right time** (that matches the order and its frequency and administration time directions) **Right patient** (that matches the patient ID on the NIMC, the label on the dispensed medicine and is confirmed by the patient using three identifiers, if possible).

3.6 Pharmacy

NIMC medicine order spaces generally have a space for use by the ward/clinical pharmacist to clarify the order, indicate source of supply or provide administration instructions.

Annotations in the space can include.		
	Medicines available on imprest	
S	Non-imprest items that will be supplied and labelled for individual use from the pharmacy	
	phamaoy	
Pts own	Medicines brought in by the patient that have been checked by the pharmacist and	
	confirmed to be acceptable for use during the patient's admission	
CD, S8	Schedule 8 medicine (stored in CD cupboard)	
Fridge	A medicine that is stored in the refrigerator	

4. Establishing patient ID, previous ADRs and other clinical information

4.1 Patie	ent identification	
Found on all	NIMCs	
Purpose	To establish the patient's identity before prescribing commences	
Af	ffix patient identification label here and overleaf	
URN:		
Family na	ame: Not a valid	
Given na	mes: prescription unless	
Address:	identifiers present	
Date of b	oirth: Sex: M 🗆 F 🗆	
First prescriber to print patient name and check label correct: Weight (kg): Height (cm):		
Figure above shows the NIMC identification section		
Use	Adhere a patient identification label in the space provided or hand write the patient name , UR number , date of birth and gender in legible print . The first prescriber must check the patient's identity and print the patient's name to document confirmation. This should occur on the front and back page where ID labels are adhered. Medicine orders should not be administered if the prescriber does not document the patient identification.	
Risk addressed	Not correctly identifying patients can result in missed and incorrect doses. Using three approved patient identifiers to establish patient identity satisfies NSQHS Standard 4.	

4.2 Patient weight and height

Found on all NIMCs with additional information required in NIMC (paediatric) and NIMC (paediatric long-stay)

Purpose	To ensure patient weight and height are available at the point of prescribing as it is important clinical information and vital for confirming doses of certain medicines	
Weight (kg): Height (cm):		
Figure above shows the NIMC weight and height recording section.		

Use	Write patient weight and height in the space provided.
	For the NIMC (paediatric) and NIMC (paediatric long-stay), also write when weight was measured, body surface area and gestational age at birth.

Risk addressed Weight is important clinical information for correctly prescribing some medicines and for at risk patients such as paediatric patients and patients with renal impairment.

Weight (kg):	Height (cm):	BSA (m ²):
Date weighed:	Gestational age at birth	(wks):

Figure above shows the NIMC (paediatric) and the NIMC (paediatric long-stay) weight and height recording section.

4.3 **Patient location**

Found on all NIMCs

Purpose
To record patient location on the medicines record of truth

Facility/service:

Ward/unit: Figure above shows the NIMC patient location section.

Use	Write the patient's current location in the NIMC patient location section.
Risk addressed	Patient location details reduce the risk of the wrong NIMC being used for patients.

4.4 **NIMC** numbering

Found on all NIMCs		
Purpose	To communicate the existence of more than one active NIMC	
Medication chart number of		
Use	Write the number of the NIMC in the sequence of active NIMCs e.g. Medication chart number 1 of 2 . The information must be updated if additional active NIMCs are created.	
Risk addressed	Failure to communicate that there is more than one active NIMC can result in missed doses or duplicate prescribing.	
	Clinicians need access to all medicines information to ensure safe treatment and care of patients.	

4.5 Additional charts		
Found on all	NIMCs	
Purpose	To communicate the existence of other specialist charts	
Additional charts IV fluid BGL/insulin Acute pain Other Palliative care Chemotherapy IV heparin		
Use	Place a tick or cross in the space provided to indicate additional specialist charts in use.	
Risk addressed	Failure to communicate additional specialist charts may result in missed doses or duplicate prescribing.	
4.6 Allergies and ADR alert		

4.0	Alle		
Found on all NIMCs			
Purpos	6e	To communicate the existence of previous allergies, adverse drug events (ADRs) and related information	
		Attach ADR sticker	
	Allerg	gies and adverse drug reactions (ADR)	
🗆 Nil	known	n Unknown (tick appropriate box or complete details below)	
Med	licine ((or other) Reaction / type / date Initials	
Sign		Print Date	
Figure	abov	ve shows the NIMC allergies and ADR section.	
Use	se Attending health professionals must obtain and record previous allergies and ADRs including:		
		the medicine (or substance)	
		 reaction details (e.g. rash, diarrhoea) and type (e.g. allergy, anaphylaxis) date that it occurred or approximate time frame (e.g. 20 years ago). 	
		Tick Nil known if the patient is not aware of any previous ADRs or allergies. Tick Unknown if no information is available about previous reactions (e.g. if the patient is unable to communicate).	
		If there are more than four previous allergies or ADRs to record, use the fifth line to refer other health professionals to the health record for additional information. Once completed, sign the space underneath, print name and date.	
		Note: This is the minimum information that should be documented. It is preferable also to document how the reaction was managed (e.g. withdraw and avoid offending agent) and	

	the source of the information (e.g. patient self report, previous documentation in health record etc).
	Any information added after the initial recording needs to be initialled in the side column.
Risk addressed	Failure to communicate previous allergies or ADRs can result in re-prescribing of offending medicines and avoidable patient harm.

4.7 AD	R alert sticker						
Found on al	I NIMCs						
Purpose To communicate highlight the existence of previous allergies and adverse drug events ADRs) recorded in the Allergies and ADR alert section.							
Atta	ch ADR sticker						
Figure abov	ve shows the NIMC ADR alert sticker section.						
Use	Affix an ADR alert sticker to the front and back page of the NIMC in the spaces provided if alert stickers are available in your facility.						
Risk addressed	Failure to communicate and alert health professionals to previous allergies or ADRs can result in re-prescribing of offending medicines.						
Ad Figure abo	verse Drug Reaction						

5. Recording medication history

5.1 Mec	cines taken prior to presentation to hospital
Found on all	NIMCs
Purpose	To record and communicate the patient's medication history
Medicines t	ken prior to presentation to hospital r the counter, complementary) Own medicines brought in? Y N Administration aid (specify)
Me	cine Dose and frequency Duration Medicine Dose and frequency Duration
	a ministra de
F	TOF FOF GOIL
GP:	Community pharmacy:
Sign:	Print: Date: Medicines usually administered by:
Figure abov	e shows the NIMC medication history section.
Use	 A health professional trained in medication history taking must document: A complete list of all medicines taken normally at home (prescription, non-prescription and complementary medicines) including drug identification details (generic name, strength and form), dose and frequency, and duration of therapy/when therapy started.
	 Whether the patient: has their own medicines with them uses a dose administration aid (e.g. Webster Pack or other blister pack) has a preferred dosage form (e.g. suspension for paediatric patients) receives assistance to administer/manage their medicines. Contact details for the patient's community health providers (general practitioner and community pharmacist).
	Any unintentional discrepancies between the medication history and the medicine orders must be brought to the attention of the prescriber.
	Use a separate medication history form (such as the National Medication Management Plan) for patients presenting with sixteen or more medicines. Note: It is also helpful to document the indication for use and to use a checklist as a prompt to ensure a comprehensive history is obtained.
Risk addressed	A correct and complete medication history at the point of prescribing reduces the risk of medication misadventure.

Recording medication history: Further information

Patient medication history may also be recorded on:

- National Medication Management Plan form
 - Local medication history form.

If a separate form is used, it should be noted in the **Medicines taken prior to admission** section and the separate form should be kept with, or next to, the NIMC.

National Medication Management Plan (MMP) Form

The MMP provides health service organisations with a standardised form that can be used by nursing, medical, pharmacy and allied health staff to improve the accuracy of information recorded on admission and available to the clinician responsible for therapeutic decision making.

A standardised form to record the medicines taken prior to presentation at the health service organisation and used for reconciling patients' medicines on admission, intra-health service transfer and at discharge is considered essential for the medication reconciliation process. The MMP provides Australian health service organisations with a form designed specifically for these purposes The MMP is designed for use in adult and paediatric patients.

The MMP aligns with the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council's Guiding principles to achieve continuity in medication management. It incorporates the minimum data set for a medication history outlined in Guiding Principle 4: Accurate medication history.

The MMP, National Medication Management Plan User Guide and other implementation resources are available from the Commission's web site at www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-reconciliation/nmmp/

Refer to local health service policy for more information about a comprehensive approach to documenting the patient's medication history.

Figure below shows pages 2 and 3 of the *National Medication Management Plan* form including the medication history section.

CUT THIS OFF		ALLERGIES & ADVERSE DRUG REACTION	5 (ADR) Initials	(Affix p URN: Family name: Given names: Address:	atient identifica	ation label	here and	i overleaf)	
66-				Date of birth:			Se	a: DM	DF
				d Cilcision to De	at Dations				
		ign Print Da	IC	ame and Check	abel Correct:				
RECENTLY CEASED OR RECENT CHANGES TO MEDICINES (prior to presentation to hospital)		MEDICINES TA Medicine Generic name (Trade name) / Strength / Form / Route	Dose	Frequency	Indication (confirm with patient)	How long or when started	Initials, profes- sion	Dr's Plan On Admission I Continue W: Withhold	Supply a
								4: Change	
SOURCES OF MEDICINE LIST									11
Source Confirmed by Date Source Confirmed by Date	ŀ			-		 	+		╆╋
General Practitioner	I					1			
Community Pharmacist	F								\square
Patient / Carer Datient List 8	z,								\square
Nursing Home Z	BRG	N -							T I
	N.	-'0.				-	+		H
Indicines usually administrated by:	SN 1	-					1 1		
Self Other (if other, specify):	2	A				-	+		t të
referred administration method:	88	0							
	Ξſ	A A							
In patient bring own medicines / tes to Location or own medicines:	z -	11	-			-			₩
atient's immunisation up to date? Yes No	Ë		5						ΗB
eneral Practitioner details Community Pharmacist details Residential Care Facility details 2	NN -		01			<u> </u>	+ +		Ħ
	to L			1 .					
8	Z O			N,					
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	- F								
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AEDICATION RISK IDENTIFICATION	-	Documented by: Signature:		Name:	r.			Date:	

6. Medicine orders

6.1 Once only and nurse initiated medicines and pre-medications

Found on all NIMC long-stay)	s (section titled O n	ice onl	y med	icines	on NIMC (paediatric)	and NIM	IC (paedi	atric
Purpose	To document one	ce only	and nu	urse init	iated med	icines and	pre-med	ications	
	Once only and n	uree in	itiotor	modi	inco and	pro modio	otiono		r
Date	Medicine	Boute	Dose	Date/time	of Prescrib	er/Nurse Initiator	(NI) Give	n by Time	Pharmacy
prescribed (pr	rint generic name)			dose	Signature	Print you	r name	given	
								_	
									1
							/		
Figure above shore shore shore shore shore section.	ws the NIMC once	only	and nu	irse ini	tiated me	dicines an	d pre-m	edication	is
Use	Once only medi Document the fol date pres generic r route of a dose to b paediatri date and prescribe initials of person to time med pharmac Standing orders Document standi (see above) and or guideline. Nurse initiated n Document nurse medications (see organisation polic	cines a llowing scribed name o adminis be adm c NIMC time n er's sign person o docur dicine a sist revi medici initiate above cy or gi	and pr for one f medie stration inistere C order nedicin nature n that a ment de adminis ew of c ers the tent with nes ed medie a medie a medie	e-medi ce only cine ed inclu s e is to b and pri administ ouble c otered orders. same a th the re icines th consistered	cations and pre-m ding the do be adminis need name ters the me hecking of as once on elevant loc	edication of ose calcula tered edicine, an the dose f al health se s once only	orders: ation (e.g d initials or paedia es and p ervice or y medicir ocal heal	. mg/kg/d of a secc atric NIM re-medica ganisatio nes and p th service	lose) for ind C orders ations n policy pre-
Risk addressed	Ensuring patients authorisations to	s receiv mitigat	ve time te pote	ly medi ntial pa	cines requ tient safety	ires a struc / risks.	ctured sy	stem of	
Figure below show (paediatric long-s	ws the once only tay).	medic	ines so	ection	of the NIM	IC (paedia	tric) and	NIMC	
	T	Or	nce on	ly med	icines	bar		1	
Date prescribed (print	Medicine generic name) Ro	oute Do	se Date	time given Sigr	Prescri nature F	Print your name	Dose calc eg. mg/kg per dose	Given Dat by g	jiven Pharm
									[

Nurse initiated medicines: Further information

Nurse initiated medicines are non-prescription medicines that may be administered by a registered nurse or midwife, or delegated to an authorised enrolled nurse in non-life threatening situations without a prior written or telephone instruction from an authorised prescriber.

The medicine must be listed on the health service organisation's approved list of nurse initiated medicines and administered in accordance with local policy. Some health service organisations do not permit nurse initiated medicines to be administered to paediatric patients.

Local policy or guideline will outline when nurses can initiate medicines and will specify a limit on doses of nurse initiated medicines that can be given such as for one dose only or for a maximum of 24 hours only. Generally this applies to a limited list of unscheduled, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 medicines. Typically this list includes:

- analgesics
- laxatives
- antacids
- cough suppressants
- sublingual nitrates
- inhaled bronchodilators
- artificial tears
- sodium chloride 0.9% flush
- IV infusion to keep IV line(s) patent as per local policy.

6.2 Telephone orders

Found on all NIMCs

Purpose

To document telephone orders

		ł	Te	lepho	one or	ders (to	bes	igned	within 24	hour	s of or	der)	-		
	Date time	Medic (print gene	cine ric name)	Route	Dose	Frequency	Check N1	initials N2	Prescriber name	Pres. sign	Date	R Time / given by	lecord of a Time / given by	dministratio Time / given by	n Time / given by
	1/6/15	Frusemid	le	IV	20mg	Stat	AB	QT	P.Jones	PJone	\$ 2/6/15	10.00 AB	/	/	/
												\square	\leq	\leq	\leq
													\angle		
												\square	\angle		
ł	igure	above sho	ws the NI	MC t	eleph	one or	ders	sectio	on with c	orde	r reco	rded, c	hecked	and s	igned.
l	Jse		Docume • (• (• (• (• (• (• (• (nt the date p gener route dose mg/kg freque nitials check name date a oresc nitials oresc ime r	e follow prescr ic nar of adr to be g/dose ency n s of tw ced (se and tir riber's s of pe and tir riber's s of pe n to d medici	wing for ibed ne of m ministra adminis of or pa nedicine o nursi e exan escriber ne med s signate erson th ocumer ne adm	telep edicin tion ediat e is to ng sta nple a givir icine ure an at ad nt dou	hone ne l inclu ric NII o be a aff to a above ng ver is to b nd pri minis uble c ered.	orders: ding the MC order dminister confirm th bal order be admin nted nam ters the r hecking o	basi rs red he vo ister ne nedi of the	s for th erbal c ed cine, a e dose e orde	ne dose order he und initia	calcula ard and als of a	ation (e d doubl second and ur	.g. e d

	what circumstances they are to be used. The telephone order MUST be signed and dated, or otherwise confirmed in writing by the prescriber, within 24 hours.
Risk addressed	Ensuring patients receive timely medicines in the absence of a prescriber requires a structured system of authorisations to reduce risk of errors from verbal orders.

6.3 Variable dose medicines

Found on NIMC (acute), NIMC (GP e-version)

Purpose	To document variable dose medicine orders that require laboratory test results or are prescribed as a reducing protocol (e.g. gentamicin and
	steroids respectively)

Varia	ble dose med	dicine			Drug level											
Date	Medicine (print ge	eneric na	me)		Time level taken											
					Dose											
Route	Route Frequency Prescriber to enter dose times and individual dose				DUSE											
					Prescriber											
Indicatio	on	Pharma	су		Time to be given:											
Prescrib	er signature Pri	int your n	ame	Contact	Time given											
l Figure	e above shows	the N	IMC var	iable de	l čose medicine se	 ectio	n.					l				
Use			Docum Docum Docum If a pat prescril space	ent the date p generic route of time m indicat ent the drug le time d dose prescri initials to be g actual time (v ient req be the s using th	following: rescribed c name of medic of administration redicine to be ad ion. following for eac evel results for m rug level taken. following for eac iber's initials of the person wh given row) time of administ vritten in the Tim uires a second v second medicine e same format a	ine minis h da edici h do no ac ratior ratior ne gi n ariab or th s in t	stere y of t nes se: dmin ven ven ven ble da ven ven ven ven ven ven ven ven ven ven	ther required ister ich r row) ose con (/aria	apy: uiring may mec d do uble	g the e do be c licine se ir Dose	erape se (\ differ e, or n a r e Me	eutic writta rent twic egul edici	: mo en ir from ce da ar m ne s	nitor n the n the aily of nedic	ring Tir dos dosin cine on.	ne se ng,
Risk a	ddressed		There i ordered	s no de d in the	signated area to regular ordering	reco secti	rd di ion.	rug l	level	s if t	these	e ag	ents	are	1	

The risk of omission is increased if variable dose medicines are ordered in the once-only ordering section.

Variable medicine doses: Further information

The NIMC (long-stay) does not have a dedicated variable dose section. Health service organisations will need to ensure policies are in place so that variable dose therapies are transferred accurately for patients transitioning from the NIMC to the NIMC (long-stay).

6.4 Ve	nous thromboembolism prophylaxis												
	Found on NIMC (acute) and NIMC (GP e-version) In a modified form on NIMC (day surgery)												
Purpose	To document VTE risk, contraindication and prophylaxis orders												
VTE risk a	ssessed: Yes Prophylaxis not required Contraindicated _{Signature:} Dat												
Date N	ledicine (print generic name)												
Route C	ose Frequency and NOW enter times												
Indication	Pharmacy												
Prescriber sig	nature Print your name Contact												
Mechanical p	ophylaxis AM check												
Prescriber/NI	signature Print your name Contact PM												
-igure ab	ove shows the NIMC VTE prophylaxis section.												
	 Sign and date. VTE chemo prophylaxis Document the following: date prescribed generic name of medicine route of administration dose to be administered date and time medicine is to be administered prescriber's signature, printed name and contact details initials of person that administers the medicine. 												
	 day. The indication section is pre-printed with 'VTE Prophylaxis'. If the dose of VTE prophylaxis medicine needs to be changed, a new order should be prescribed on a subsequent chart. VTE mechanical prophylaxis 												
	 Document the following: type of mechanical prophylaxis required e.g. graduated compression stockings prescriber's signature, printed name and contact details. 												
	local policy.												
	AM and PM have been pre-printed in the administration space to encourage checking and documenting that patients receive mechanical prophylaxis correctly.												

Risk addressed	Healthca demonst prescribi prescribi	are-associate trates that inc ing improves ing.	d VTE is cluding a the rate	a natio promp of VTE	onal ho t for V risk a	ealth TE ri sses	safe sk as smer	ty and sess nt and	d qua ment d of a	lity iss and f pprop	sue. F or pro riate	Resea ophyla proph	rch xis ylaxis	
VTE risk assess	ed:Yes 🗸	Prophylaxis no	ot required	Con	traindic	ated	S i	M.B	rou	in	21	5/13		
Date Medicin	e (print generic r	name)	/											
			\leq											
Route Dose	Freque	ncy and NOW enter ti	mes	•				_			,	No No	cist:	
Indication		Pharmacy			Co	ntri	rin	díci	rtea	IM	3	Yes /	ma	
VTE prophyl	axis											je?	hai	
Prescriber signature	Print yo	our name	Contact									charg	L L	
Mechanical prophyla	xis			0.04				_				on dis		
moonanical propriyie	Xie			check								ue c ise?		
Prescriber/NI signate	ire	Print your name	Contact	PM check								Contin Disper Duratic		

Figure above shows the VTE prophylaxis section with chemo prophylaxis section struck out, signed and dated as it is contraindicated.

VTE prophylaxis section: Further information

This VTE prophylaxis section is designed to prompt documentation of:

- VTE risk assessment
- contraindications to VTE prophylaxis
- ordering of pharmacological and mechanical VTE prophylaxis if indicated.

The VTE prophylaxis section is placed above the dedicated warfarin section to assist recognising patients who are already receiving therapeutic anticoagulation and do not require VTE prophylaxis. Whoever is responsible for assessing patient VTE risk should do so according to local policy and then document the outcome.

In some health service organisations, documentation of the risk assessment will be done by the admitting medical officer/authorised prescriber. In others, it will be the responsibility of the nursing staff. The risk assessment should be completed consistent with local policy and in relation to the patient's clinical status at that point. For patients who have multiple charts, the VTE risk assessment should be documented on the first chart. Reassessment of risk may be required depending on changes to clinical status, medicines and other circumstances and should be documented in the VTE risk assessment section on one of the subsequent charts.

If the dose of VTE prophylaxis medicine needs to be changed, a new order should be prescribed on a subsequent chart.

The NIMC (long-stay) does not have a dedicated VTE prophylaxis section. Health service organisations will need to ensure policies are in place so that VTE prophylaxis therapies are transferred accurately for patients transitioning from the NIMC to the NIMC (long-stay).

VTE therapy / treatment

If VTE therapy is required e.g. for a pre-existing DVT, it should be ordered in the regular medicines space and not in the pre-printed VTE prophylaxis section.

6.5 Wa	rfarin													
Found on NI	IMC (acute), NIMC	(long-stay) and NIM	IC (GP e-v	ersio	on).									
Purpose	To document w	arfarin orders and re	ecord INR	resu	lts									
Date	Warfarin	Marevan / Coumad	in ^{INR} Result											
Route	Prescriber to enter	Target INR Range	Dose	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg
Indication		Pharmacy	Prescribe 1600	r										
Prescriber signa	ture Print your na	ime Contact	Initial 1	H										
			Initial 2	I								I		I
Use	Document the fol date pres circle req route of a dose to b target INI indication prescribe For each day of INR resu warfarin o prescribe initials of documen	lowing: scribed uired brand name administration e administered R range n r's signature, printed therapy, document t dose r's initials person that adminis t double checking o	d name ar the followi ters the m f the dose	nd co ng in nedici	ntac iform	t dei natio and	tails. on: initia	als o	of a s	seco	nd p	perso	on to	2
Risk addressed	Warfarin is a mee from prescribing r warfarin prescribi medication chart, doses resulting fr	licine with a high ris not linked to INR res ng with INR result re reducing the risks f om a separate warfa	k of patien sults. The l ecording, a rom poor p arin chart.	it har NIMC and in presc	m fro C deo ncorp cribin	om r dicat pora ig ar	miss ted v ites i nd fr	ed c warfa it int om o	or du arin o th dupl	uplica space e sta licate	ate o ce ir anda e or	dose icorj ird miss	es ar pora sed	nd tes
Warfarin se	ction: Further info	ormation												
The warfarin a high-risk m	n ordering section is nedicine).	s printed in red as ar	n extra ale	rt to	indic	ate	that	it is	an a	antic	coag	ular	nt (ar	nd
It is recomm professional information a interactions.	ended that a copy s to assist when a about target INR, d	of guidelines for ant patient is commence uration of therapy, d	icoagulatio ed on warf losing, ma	on us arin. nage	ing v The emer	warf guio nt of	arin delin exce	is av nes s essiv	vaila shou ve b	able Ild in Ieed	for h ncluc ling a	iealt le and	th dru	9
A standard a the team can hours staff to	administration time ring for the patient to o do.	of 1600 hours (4 p.r to order the next dos	n.) is reco se based c	mme on IN	endeo R re	d (aı sults	nd p s, rai	re-p ther	rinte thai	ed) a n lea	is thi aving	is al j it fo	lows or af	ter-

6.6 Wa	rfarin education record (anticoagulant education record)
Found on N	IIMC (acute), NIMC (long-stay) and NIMC (GP e-version).
Purpose	To document education provided at the initiation of warfarin and other anticoagulant therapy prescribed for ongoing treatment.
Figure 1	Figure 2
Warfa Patient e Sign: Date: Given wa Sign: Date: Date:	arin education record educated by: arfarin book: arfarin book: boove shows the Warfarin education record as printed on the chart. For other ongoing and treatment this record can be amended to reflect educational activities provided.
Use	 The health professional providing the education should document the following: name of anticoagulant health professional name date warfarin book or other printed information given and discussed health professional signature date signed
Risk addressed	Anticoagulants are medicines with high risk of patient harm if not taken correctly. Documenting that an education session has been conducted with the patient ensures all healthcare staff know the patient has been instructed on how to manage their anticoagulant medicine safely, including any required monitoring and dose adjustment for ongoing use. This section records a key risk mitigation activity, educating patients on how to manage their anticoagulant medicine has been completed
Anticoagul	ant education record: Further information
Anticoagula on oral or in or low mole written info Patients ini includes ed education s Where a me cancelled of the informat	ants are high risk medicines. To safeguard against potential harms, <i>all</i> patients initiated njectable anticoagulants such as warfarin, new oral anticoagulants (e.g. rivaroxaban) ecular heparin (e.g. enoxaparin) for ongoing treatment must receive education and rmation about their new medicine. tiated on warfarin in particular, must receive a <i>structured</i> warfarin initiation which ducation on warfarin use and a warfarin book for recording essential information. Patient essions should be recorded in the 'Warfarin education record' section of the chart. edicine other than warfarin is prescribed, 'Warfarin' in the title of the record should be ut and replaced with the name of the anticoagulant prescribed. Similarly, 'warfarin book' in tion given section should be cancelled out and re-labelled according to the written

6.7 Regular medicine order

Found on all NIMCs except NIMC (day surgery). Additional fields required for NIMC (paediatric) and NIMC (paediatric long-stay).

Purpose	To docur	nent regul	lar med	licine ord	ers									
Date Medicine (pr	int generic na	me)		Tick if slow release										
Route Dose	Frequency	y and NOW en	ter times	\rightarrow					-					
Indication	F	harmacy												
Prescriber signature	Print your	name	C	Contact										
Figure above sho	ws the N	MC regul	ar med	licine or	der spa	ce.								
Use	Docume • 0 • t • t • t • t • t • t • t • t	nt the follo date – Not generic me ick slow re route dose frequency ndication prescriber prescriber dose calcu administra NIMC (pae	wing: e: this i edicine elease l and en signatu name p contac ilation (tion by ediatric)	s the dat name box if app ter admir tre printed t details for NIMC initialling and the	e on wh propriat histratio (paedi the pro NIMC (nich e n tim atric pvide paec	the r nes) and ed sp diatri	nedicir d NIM(pace or c long	C (pac doul -stay)	der i edia ble-ii	s bei tric lo nitiall	ng ch ong-st ling fo	arted. ay) or r the	nly)
Risk addressed	Standaro informati medicine	lising med on, reduce error in h	licines p es the r ealth se	orescribir isks of er ervice org	ng and a ror thro ganisati	admi ough ons.	iniste slips	ering, a s and l	and p apses	rese s, the	entati e gre	on of atest	relate cause	d es of
Date Patient name 1st		2nd		PBS RPBS () Appropriate box										
Medicine (print generic name)	Tick if slow release	Route	Dose	Frequency										
Print prescriber name Pr	escriber No	Prescriber signa	ature	Contact										
Indication		Pharmacy	Quantity	Repeats	Discharge	Ye	s/No	Duratio	n/		Pi	rescriber		
Figure above sho	ws the N	MC priva	te heal	th servio	e regu	lar n	nedi	cine o	rder	spa	ce w	rith ac	lditio	nal

6.8 Pharmaceutical	review	/												
Found on all NIMCs except	NIMC	(day s	urgery).										
Purpose	To do	cumer	nt revie	w of m	edicine	e ordei	rs by p	harma	cist					
Pharmaceutical re	view:	hormo												
Purpose To document review of medicine orders by pharmacist Pharmaceutical review: Image: Comparison of the pharmaceutical review space. Figure above shows the NIMC pharmaceutical review space. Image: Comparison of the pharmaceutical review space. Jse Review the NIMC to ensure that all orders are clear, safe and appropriate for the patient and initial the space on the correct day.														
Risk addressed	Uncle	ear, ur	isafe a	nd inaj	opropri	ate me	edicine	order	s can r	isk pat	ient sa	fety.		
6.9 Discharge supp	lv													

0.9 DISC	marge supply			
Found on all	NIMCs except NIMC	(day surgery).		
Purpose	To order discharge s	supply		
Continue of Dispense? Duration;	n discharge? Yes / No Yes / No days Qty:	Continue on dis Dispense? Duration;	charge? Yes / No Yes / No days Qty;	
	Prin	t vour name.		_
Figure abov	e shows the NIMC di	scharge supply spa	ce which is display	ed vertically in the regular
medicine se	ction and in the PRN	I medicine section.		, ,
Use	Document the follow Continue on Dispense? Corganisation Duration QtyC	ing for each medicine discharge? Circle ye Circle yes if the medic pharmacy on discha days. Number of days Quantity of the medici	2: s if medicine is to be ine is to be dispense rge. s the medicine is requ ne to be supplied.	continued on discharge d by the health service uired on discharge.
	For each page the for prescriber's prescriber na pharmacist s	ollowing information is signature ame printed and date signature and dated.	s only required to be d	documented once:
Risk addressed	Poor continuity of ca safety. Prescribing d of transcription error.	re, including ongoing ischarge medicines c	medicines supply, ris	sks patient recovery and cation chart reduces the risk
Discharge required	Yes / No	Duration/ quantity	Prescribe signature	er"
Figure abov	e shows the private	health service orda	nisation NIMC disch	arge supply space which
is displayed	horizontally in the r	egular medicine sec	tion and vertically i	n the PRN medicines
section.				

Regular medicine orders: Further information

Limited duration medicines

When a regular medicine is ordered for a limited duration, this must be clearly indicated by crossing out the days/times when the drug is NOT to be given. Boxing the specified times will help clarify when administration is required. Two options for 'crossing and boxing' are demonstrated in the following figures. Boxing must not obscure information included in the administration section. Orders for antimicrobials must include a cease or review date.

Date 14/7	Medicine (print	t generic name) KEN	Tick if slow release	- 0800	ai	П	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes / No Yes / No	
\mathcal{PO}	Ig BD	Frequency and NOW enter tir	ST OP		no.				~	~	~	~	~	1	harge?	ays Oth
Indication PAIN	J	Pharmacy													on disc	p
Prescriber s	signature HoUs	Print your name NICHOLLS	Contact 4703	2000	РJ		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Continue Dispense	Duration:

Date 14/7 Route	Medicir NA7 Dose	ne (print PROX	generic na CEN Frequenc	ame) cv and NOW e	nter time:	Tick if slow release	0800	AL							? Yes / No	ity:
PO	19	BD	FOR	3 DAYS	POST	OP									harge	ays C
Indication				Pharmacy											disc	þ
PAIN	V								-						5.	.
Properibor	eignatura	0	Print you	r namo		Contact	2000	PJ			<u> </u>	<u> </u>			Ine	5
T.Nic	holls		NIC	HOLLS		4703									Contil	Durat

Figure above demonstrates how to cross and box administration days for a limited duration medicine.

Intermittent dosing orders

Medicines requiring intermittent administration must be clearly indicated by crossing out the days/times when the drug is NOT to be given. Boxing the specified times will help clarify when administration is required. Two options for 'crossing and boxing' are demonstrated in the following examples.

Frequency a	nd NOW enter tin WEEK ON /														je je ji
DI		- Chubhh													rge? \ Y ays Oty:
ARTHRITIS	rmacy														on discha
e Print your nar S HIGGS	ne	Contact 441													Continue Dispense Duration:
ine (print generic name) LIC ACID		Tick if slow release	0800	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	s/No s/No
Frequency a	und NOW enter tin DAY ON Tひ	nes 🗪													arge? Ye Ye ays Oty:
Pha D ARTHRITIS	macy														on discha
e Print your nar S HIGGS	ne	Contact 441													Continue Dispense Duration
ine (print generic name) ໃນການໄປດານ	TNEDAT	Tick if													
Frequency a	and NOW enter the $OUR = APP$	mes	0800	X	X	С	X	X	X	X	X	X	С	X	s/ No s/ No
Pha	rmacy EACH SUND	WEEK ON AY													charge? Ye Ye days Oty.
e Print your na TAN	me	Contact 2130													nue on disi nse? on:
	re Print your nar GS HIGGS ine (print generic name) DLIC ACID Frequency a ng ONCE A 1 D ARTHRITIS re Print your nar HIGGS sine (print generic name) UPRENORPH Frequency a MICROGRAM/H Pha re Print your nar MICROGRAM/H	re Print your name GS HIGGS ine (print generic name) DLIC ACID Frequency and NOW enter tin MG ONCE A DAY ON TU Pharmacy D ARTHRITIS re Print your name FS HIGGS Sine (print generic name) UPRENORPHINE PATU Frequency and NOW enter tin MICROGRAM/HOUR APP Pharmacy EACH SUND re Print your name TAN	re Print your name Contact GS HIGGS 441 ine (print generic name) Tick if pUIC ACID Frequency and NOW enter times ng ONCE A DAY ON TUES + FRI Pharmacy ONTUES + FRI Pharmacy Contact 441 ine (print generic name) Contact 2130	re Print your name Contact GS HIGGS 441 ine (print generic name) Tick if alow release 0800 DLIC ACID release 0800 mg ONCE A DAY ON TUES + FRI Pharmacy D ARTHRITIS Pharmacy 0 re Print your name Contact GS HIGGS 441 sine (print generic name) Tick if slow release 0800 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Depot injectable medicines

Depot injectable medicines are commonly prescribed on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly or threemonthly basis and should be ordered using the same method as for intermittent dosing orders. These medicines may be ordered on the NIMC (acute) or the NIMC (long-stay). Inclusion of additional information such as site of injection and the next dose due date, will assist with discharge processes and continuity of care.

	······································								_
Date	Medicine (print generic name) DA / TDFP TO Λ/F DFD T show								99
13/1	FALIFLAIDONL DLFOT								V / Se
Route	Dose Frequency and NOW enter times		_						2 Ke
IM	150mg on 14/7/16	1200							arge
Indication	Pharmacy								d
SCA12	OPARENIA								ou q
Prescriber s	signature Print your name Contact								inue ense ation:
B. HI	GGS HIGGS 441								Cont Disp Dura
Date	Medicine (print generic name) Tick if								0.0
13/7	PALIPERIDONE DEPOT slow release	-							N/S
Route	Dose Frequency and NOW enter times								Jty.
IM	100mg on 21/7/16	1200							irge?
Indication	Pharmacy								is cha
									on di
Prescriber s	signature Print your name Contact	_							inue ense tion;
B. H.	IGGS HIGGS 441								Cont Disp Dura
Date	Medicine (print generic name)								
13/7	PALIPERIDONE DEPOT slow release								s/No
Route	Dose Frequency and NOW enter times								Ye.
IM	100mg ONCE A MONTH		NE.	XTD	UE_2	1/8	16		urge?
Indication	Pharmacy					T T			scha
									on d
Prescriber s	ignature Print your name Contact	_							ense tion:
B. H.	LGGS HIGGS 441								Cont Disp Dura
Figure	above demonstrates how to cross a	nd box a	admini	stratio	n dav	s for a	dep	ot an	ti-
psycho	tic on the NIMC (acute).								••
Date									
13/7	KISPERIDONE DEPOT Slow release 0800								
Route IM	Dose Frequency and NOW enter times								
Indication	Pharmacy								
incloation	i naima y								

Figure above demonstrates how to cross and box administration days for a depot antipsychotic on the NIMC (long-stay).

Ceased medicines

Print your name

NGUYEN

Contact

0325

Prescriber signature

G.Nguyen

When stopping a medicine, the original order must not be obliterated. The prescriber must draw a clear line through the order in both the prescription and the administration record sections, taking care that the line does not impinge on other orders.

The prescriber must write the reason for changing the order (e.g. cease, written in error, increased dose etc), the date and their initials in the administration record section.

When a medicine order needs to be changed, the prescriber must not over write the order. The original order must be ceased and a new order written.

Note: The acronym **D/C** should not be used for ceased orders since this can be confused with Discharge. Always use Cease or Ceased.

Figure a	above demonst	rates how to c	ease an	order	on t	he	NIM	C.					
Prescriber s	ignature Print you S JOI	ur name Hes	Contact pager 4721				-1	_/		40			 Continue
Indication		Pharmacy	1					4		9/1, ST	16		 e on disch
PO	250 microg in	orning						Ζ	/	Сеа	sed		arge?
Boute	Dose Frequen	cy and NOW enter time	release	0800	AB	AB	DE	1	/				Yes
Date $6/1/16$	Medicine (print generic n	ame)	Tick If slow						1				/ No

Slow release medicines and other non-standard formulations

The *Tick if Slow Release* box is included in regular medicine spaces as a prompt to prescribers to consider whether or not the standard release form of the medicine is required. This box must be ticked to indicate a **sustained**, **modified or controlled** release form of an oral drug (e.g. verapamil SR, Diltiazem CD). If not ticked, then it is understood that the standard release form is to be administered.



Figure above shows the Slow release legend box found in the middle of the NIMC and on the top of page 2 of the NIMC (GP e-version).

Reasons for not administering

Nurses administering medicine(s) should only sign in the administration box when the medicine has been **observed** to be administered.

When it is not possible to administer the prescribed medicine, the reason for not administering must be recorded by entering the appropriate code (see figure below) and circling. By circling the code it will not accidentally be misread as someone's initials.

If a patient refuses medicine(s), then the prescriber must be notified. If medicine(s) are withheld, the reason must be documented in the patient's medical notes.

If the medicine is not available when required, it is the responsibility of the person administering to notify the pharmacy and/or to obtain supply or to contact the prescriber to advise that the medicine ordered is not available.

Further information is available at Appendix B: Guidelines for administering and withholding medicines.

Reason for not administering Codes MUST be circled	
Absent	A
Fasting	(\mathbf{F})
Refused – notify prescriber	(\mathbf{R})
Vomiting	V
On leave	L
Not available – obtain supply or contact prescriber	N
Withheld – enter reason in clinical record	W
Self administered	S

7. Medicine Orders: PRN (as required)

7.1	PRN	lorder																	
Found o	on all	NIMCs																	
Purpos	e	Γo order P	IMCs order PRN (as required) medicines (print generic name) Date ourly frequency Max PRN dose/24 hrs Time Dose Pharmacy Dose Print your name Contact Sign Dose Print your name Contact Sign Dose Print your name Contact Sign Dose Dove shows the NIMC PRN order section. Document the following for each medicine prescription: • dose • hourly frequency. • route • dose • hourly frequency • maximum daily dose (i.e. maximum PRN dose in 24 hours) e.g. Paracetamol 4g indication • prescriber signature, printed name and contact details Prescribing clinicians should exercise caution when prescribing PRN medicines and check the regular medicines section for possible duplicate orders. Document the following for each medicine administration:																
Date	Medic	ine (print gener	IIMCs a order PRN (as required) medicines iourly frequency Max PRN dose/24 hrs PRN Date iourly frequency Max PRN dose/24 hrs Pharmacy Dose Pharmacy Dose Print your name Contact Contact Sign Ove shows the NIMC PRN order section. Document the following for each medicine prescription: • dose and hourly frequency. (PRN (pre-printed) alone is not sufficient.) • route • dose • hourly frequency • maximum daily dose (i.e. maximum PRN dose in 24 hours) e.g. Paracetamol 4g • indication • prescriber signature, printed name and contact details Prescribing clinicians should exercise caution when prescribing PRN medicines and check the regular medicines section for possible duplicate orders. Document the following for each medicine administration: • date • time • dose given • route • initial Administering clinicians should check the maximum PRN dose in 24 hours and also check the timing of the previous dose (either PRN or regular).																
Route	Dose	Hourly freque	ncy	Max PRN	dose/24 hrs	Time		_											
Indication			PRN Pharmacy			Dose													
Prescriber s	signatur	e Print yo	our name		Contact	Route													
The figu	ire a	hove sho	ws the		PRN ord	Sign	octio	n											
Use Risk		Docume o o o o o o o o o o o o o	nt the fo dose and route dose nourly fre Paraceta ndication prescribe bing clin ck the re nt the fo date time dose give route nitial stering c ck the time	Ilowing I hour I hour n daily mol 4 er sign icians gular i Ilowing en	g for eac ly freque cy y dose (i. g nature, pr s should medicine g for eac g for eac ans shou	h mee ncy. (rinted exerces sec h mee	dicir (PRI nan tise tion dicir eck	um ne a cau for ne a the <u>se (e</u> risk	PR and tion pos dmi	cript print N de con wh sibl nist nist	tion: ted) tact en p e du ratio	alo in 2 def press uplic on: PRI or r	ne i 24 h tails crit cate N do	s no ours bing e orc ose <u>ular</u>)	ot su s) e. PR Jers in 2	uffic .g. Nm 4 ho	ient nedi	.) cine	es d
address	sed	regular o	orders re	duces	the risk	of err	or.	115K	<u>s p</u>				y. 3			<u></u>			""
PRN (as	s req	uired) me	dicines	: Furt	her info	rmati	on												
Max PR The Max administ exceede Figure I	N do x dos tered ed for belov	ose/24 hrs ie/ 24 hou in 24 hou that PRN v is an ex	rs promp irs for Pf I medicir cample o	ot indic RN do ne. of an c	cates the ses only. order wit	total . The th the	amo max PR	ouni kimu	t of um o n ax	the daily imu	meo / do I m c	dicir sag dail y	ne v e sł y d o	vhic noul	h m d no ge.	ay t ot b	be e		
11/1/16	Pa	racetamo		M 00:		Date	11/1												
PO PO	Dose 1g	e Hourly frequ 4 hrly	PRN	Max PRN 4	l dose/24 hrs g	Time	1400												
Indication Pain			Pharmacy 2 x 500	mg :	I	Dose Route	1g PO												
Prescriber s M. Sm	signatur úth	e Print yo M.SI	our name mith		Contact 8948	Sign	Ms												

Multiple route orders

Generally, medicine orders should be for one route only. However, local requirements may indicate other practice. Health service organisations should be aware of risks associated with medicine orders with multiple routes of administration. A health service-specific list of exceptions to the general rule should be determined in conjunction with the health service's drug and therapeutics committee or equivalent and appropriate risk mitigation strategies put in place. Figure below is an example of an order for multiple routes and with the administration route recorded.

Date 6/1/16	Medicine (pr Met	rint generic oclop	rame) ramid	le	Date	6/1	7/1	7/1					
Route PO/IV	Dose Hou 10mg	rly frequen 8hrly	cy PRN	Max PRN dose/24 hrs 30mg	Time	20:00	06:00	14:00					
Indication Naus	ea		Pharmacy		Dose Route	10mg IV	10mg IV	10mg PO					
Prescriber s M. Sm	ignature ith	Print you M.Sr	r name nith	Contact 8948	Sign	Ms	B	B					

Prescribing PRN opioids

The sedation score may be specified in the 'Max Dose/24 hrs' section to indicate the maximum medicine amount to be administered when prescribing opioids in the PRN section.

When sedation scores are used, the local policy or guideline should specify a standard sedation scoring system and a process for recording the scores, and the record must be available at the point of care. Nursing and medical staff should be familiar with the sedation scale used. For example, using the 4 point sedation scale of 0 to 3 published by the Victorian Quality Council, the PRN order could specify "if sedation score is less than 2". The error-prone symbol < should not be used.

Figure below illustrates a sedation score specified in the Max Dose/24 hrs PRN order space.

Date 11/1/16	Date Medicine (print generic name) 11/1/16 Oxycodone (Endone) Route Dose Hourly frequency PO 5mg 4 hrly PRN score less ndication Phometry											
Route PO	Dose Hourly frequent 5mg 4 hrly	Max PRN dose/24 hrs If sedation score less	Time	1100								
Indication	1	than 2	Dose	5mg								
Breakt	dication Breakthrough pain Pharmacy than 2											
Prescriber si M. Sm	dication Pharmacy than 2 Breakthrough pain Pharmacy than 2 rescriber signature Print your name Contact M. Smith M.Smith 8940											

8. Paediatric NIMC: Additional safety features

The paediatric versions of the NIMC incorporate additional features identified as important for safe medicines use with paediatric and neonatal patients.

Patient weight, date, height, and body surface area

The child's weight must be documented in the box on the front of the chart including the date when the child was weighed. The weight should also be documented on the back page when PRN medicines are ordered.

The height and body surface area should be documented for when body surface area (BSA) is used to calculate the dose of a medicine.

Gestational age at birth

There is space for recording gestational age at birth under the BSA and height box. This should be completed for premature infants.

Dose calculation

The prescriber must document the basis for the dose calculation in the dose calculation box (e.g. mg/kg/dose or microgram/m²/dose etc). Where a telephone order has been requested, the clinician receiving the order must also document the basis for the dose calculation as part of the order. This will assist pharmacists, nurses and other doctors in double-checking the dose to ensure that the intended and actual dose is calculated correctly.

Figure below is an example of an order for an infant weighing 10 kgs with dose calculation and double-signing for administration.

Date /	Medicine (print generic name)			Tick if							/	
11/1	raracetamoi sow miaso				/		/	/	/	/		
Route	Dose	Freque	ency and NOW ent	ter times		0600	/	3%				
PO 150 mg 6 houry Pharmacy/additional information				1200	/				/			
Indication Dose calculation (vo. mo/ko.per dose)				1800	PK			\square				
Pain 15mg/kg				2400	PK	\nearrow		\nearrow				
J.Brown J.		Brown	29	86		\geq						

The basis for the dose calculation should first be checked in a current paediatric dosing reference endorsed by the local drug and therapeutics committee.

The actual dose should be calculated using an accurate weight or BSA (up to usual adult dose). If the child is obese or significantly oedematous, the ideal weight may be more appropriate. **All calculations should be double-checked.**

Administration of medicines

There are two spaces for recording the administration of each dose of medicine to allow for the recording of two signatures, to document that the double checking process has occurred when required.

Additional reason for not administering medicine code

There is an additional reason for not administering medicine code on the NIMC paediatric charts. It is a P with a circle around it which records that the medicine was administered by the paediatric patient's parent or carer.

Appendices

Appendix A: NIMC resources

The Commission maintains a range of resources to assist health services use the NIMC, audit its use and educate staff about it.

1. National standard medication charts (including design files and printing instructions) www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/

2. NIMC User Guide

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications/national-inpatient-medication-chart-user-guide-including-paediatric-versions/

3. NIMC Local Management Guidelines

http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications/nimc-local-management-guidelines-pdf-133kb/

4. NIMC Online Training Module (designed for all health professionals using the NIMC) http://www.nps.org.au/health-professionals/cpd/online-courses

5. Medication Safety Training (designed for all health professionals and to explore the causes of medication error)

http://www.nps.org.au/health-professionals/cpd/online-courses

6. NIMC national and local auditing

http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/nimc/national-inpatientmedication-chart-audit/

7. Recommendations for Terminology, Abbreviations and Symbols used in the Prescribing and Administration of Medicines

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications/national-terminology-abbreviations-and-symbols-to-be-used-inthe-prescribing-and-administering-of-medicines-in-australian-hospitals/

8. National Medication Management Plan form and support materials

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-reconciliation/nmmp/

9. VTE Prevention Resource Centre

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/vte-prevention-resource-centre/

10. High risk medicines information and alerts

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-alerts/

Appendix B: Guidelines for administering and withholding medicines

The NIMC is a legal document and therefore **must be** written in a clear, legible and unambiguous form.

Every nurse has a responsibility to ensure they can clearly read and understand the order before administering any medicines. For **all** incomplete or unclear orders, the prescriber should be contacted to clarify. **Never** make any assumptions about the prescriber's intent.

Every medication chart **must have** the patient's identification details completed.

Every medicine order **must be complete** and include:

- Date
- Route
- Generic medicine name
- Dose ordered in metric units & arabic numerals
- **Frequency** (using only accepted abbreviations)
- Times (must be entered by the authorised prescriber)
- Prescriber's signature

If the medication chart is full (i.e. there is no appropriate space to sign for administration) then the medicine order is not valid. The chart must be re-written as soon as possible.

Withholding medicines

It is appropriate to withhold the medicine if there is a known adverse drug reaction (ADR) to the prescribed medicine.

Generally medicines **should not** be withheld if the patient is **pre-operative** or **nil by mouth (NBM)** / **fasting** unless specified by the authorised prescriber.

Remember the five Rs:

- The right medicine
- The right dose
- The right route
- The right time
- The right patient

Appendix C: Ordering oral and enteral nutrition supplements on the NIMC

The NIMC is not designed for ordering and recording administration of oral and enteral nutritional supplements. Its use for this purpose may result in:

- Confusion of nutritional supplements with medicines; (e.g. *Pulmocare* mistaken for the corticosteroid inhaler *Pulmicort* and amino acid liquid *Nepro* mistaken for the antiepileptic medicine *Keppra*)
- Potential for patients to receive unauthorised medicines
- Delays in provision and administration of nutrition to patients if the NIMC is sent to the pharmacy for dispensing.

Some health services have a separate clinical nutrition chart for ordering and administration of nutritional products including nutritional supplements. An example of clinical nutrition chart is available on the Commission web site at http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-chart/support-material/

Health services that choose to use the NIMC for ordering nutritional supplements should undertake a risk assessment and have a local policy or procedure on ordering and recording administration of nutritional supplements. The same requirements that apply to safer prescribing and administration of medicines on the NIMC should also apply to ordering and recording administration of nutritional products on the NIMC. Local policies or procedures for ordering and recording administration of nutritional supplements on the NIMC should include:

- Who is responsible for ordering nutritional supplement on the NIMC (medical officer, authorised dietitian, etc.)
- The requirement for a dietitian to undertake training in the key principles of safe prescribing practices before ordering an approved nutritional supplement on the NIMC
- Where and how the nutritional supplement is ordered
- The requirement to annotate 'nutritional supplement' in the indication box or next to the product name
- How to cease the nutritional product
- Dietitian to regularly check NIMC for transcribing errors in nutritional product
- Regular auditing of prescriptions of nutritional supplements.

Example of a NIMC regular medicine space used for ordering and recording administration of nutritional supplement

Date 11/1/16	Medicine (print generic name) TWOCA / HN	Tick if slow	0600	MD	HS				
Route	Dose Frequency and NOW enter times			MD					
PO	60 mL qid	1800	DS						
Indication Pharmacy				DS					
Prescriber signature Print your name Contact									
A.M. (Dietitian) A. Maris 98									

Appendix D: Ordering and administering medical gases on the NIMC

The NIMC should not be used to order or administer medical gases, such as oxygen. These medicines require specific features to safely order, administer and monitor their use. The necessary features are not included on the standard NIMC.

It is recognised that some jurisdictions have systems in place to order and administer medical gases, such as specific ancillary charts. Please contact your jurisdiction's Health Services Medication Expert Advisory Group representative or health department for information on recommended processes for documenting orders and administration of medical gases.

Appendix E: NIMC (GP e-version) User Guide

Purpose

To provide guidance on use of the NIMC (GP e-version)

Key points

A four A4 page version of the NIMC (acute), the NIMC (GP e-version), was approved for use in 2009. It is designed to assist general practitioners electronically prescribing for admitted patients primarily in rural and remote hospitals. The NIMC (GP e-version) should assist GPs (without access to A3 printers) to provide medicine orders for inpatients in a NIMC compliant format

Although not essential, colour printing is preferred as the document has contrasting red as a safety device to highlight:

- allergies and ADR information
- medicines taken prior to presentation (to distinguish from current medications)
- dedicated medicines boxes (for variable dose medication and warfarin)
- warfarin education box.

Differences between the NIMC (acute) and the NIMC (GP e-version)

The NIMC (acute) is a folded A3, double-side printed document. The NIMC (GP e-version) has the following differences:

- Each page requires full patient identification details (and which should be automatically populated when the chart is printed).
- Each page number is stated as part of the whole document, as in "Page 1 of 4", Page 2 of 4" etc.
- Allergies and ADRs are detailed on page 1 and reference made to the page 1 details on successive pages.
- In instances where a patient has more than five allergies/ ADRs some versions of the NIMC (GP e-Version) will generate a fifth page ("Page 5 of 5"). The fifth page will contain the complete list of allergies and ADRs. All preceding pages will refer readers to the fifth page for the complete list of allergies and ADRs.
- Various boxed information (which is in the middle of pages 3 and 4 in the NIMC (acute) has been moved to underneath the allergy/ADR and patient ID space on page 2 of the NIMC (GP eversion).
- As a result of the boxed information on page 2, there is one less regular medicines space available than on the NIMC (acute).

Key practice issues

The same use requirements for the NIMC (GP e-version) apply as for the NIMC (acute) with the following additional requirements:

- All four pages (or five pages where an additional allergies/ADRs page has been generated), constitute a single chart and should not be printed in part.
- All pages of the chart must be kept together in the correct sequence.
- If the document is printed single-sided and placed in a ring folder, then pages 2 and 4 are punched on the right side so that the Regular Medicines section (across pages 2 and 3) can be seen and used as one page.

Hospitals and health services should develop local policies to manage introduction of the NIMC (GP e-version) into their facilities.

Background

Implementation of the NIMC (acute) in 2006 and 2007 resulted in problems for some general practitioners who electronically generated prescriptions for admitted patients in rural and remote hospitals on non NIMC compliant charts. These orders had to be transcribed by hand onto a complying NIMC which created additional patient safety risks. The NIMC Summary Rationale is attached for information. Further NIMC support materials are available on the Commission website www.safetyandguality.gov.au



Appendix F: Summary Rationale for the National Inpatient Medication Chart

Ensuring patients receive the best therapy in a safe and effective manner is a complex process involving many health professionals often working in teams. One critical component of this process is the communication of medicines orders to allow safe and accurate dispensing, administration and reconciliation of medicines. Evidence suggests that communication can be made safer through education of safe prescribing and administration principles and with standardisation of best practice to reduce the potential for errors.

Additional potential benefits in patient safety are derived from:

- standardisation of best practice throughout the medication management cycle, within and between healthcare organisations
- standardisation of undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional education in the medication management cycle.

Key principles for ordering and administering medicines for an individual patient When a medication chart is first written up, the patient's name should always be handwritten at the top of the chart by the prescriber. This acts as a double check for pre-labelled charts and reduces the risk of ordering medicine for the wrong patient.

When subsequent new medicine orders are written, the chart should be checked to ensure it is for the correct patient.

A medication chart should include a section for recording adverse drug reaction information. This section should enable documentation of whether a reaction has previously occurred, the nature of the reaction (if one has occurred previously), the date the reaction occurred and the signature of the healthcare professional recording the information. If no previous reactions have occurred, this should be explicitly documented (e.g. 'nil known'). If no information is available about previous reactions (e.g. if the patient is unable to communicate), this should also be documented (e.g. 'unknown'). This section should be clearly visible where most regular prescriptions are written to reduce the risk of inadvertent exposure to a drug to which the patient is allergic.

A single medication chart should include a section for 'once only' and premedication orders so that they are neither on a separate chart nor included with regular orders. This minimises the risk of doses being missed or orders being continued inadvertently, as well as providing a more complete medication history on a single chart.

Telephone orders should be discouraged, unless essential due to work practice restrictions (for example, health service organisations with no resident medical staff). Where telephone orders are unavoidable, the medication chart should contain a section that facilitates the safe practice of two staff independently receiving and reading back the order to the prescriber. These orders should allow no more than four doses to be administered before being signed by the prescriber.

There should be a section on the medication chart for recording medicines taken by the patient prior to admission, except when a facility uses a dedicated medication reconciliation chart that accompanies the current medication chart. The inclusion of this information on or with the medication chart, or on a dedicated chart, facilitates reconciliation of pre-admission medicines with medicines prescribed whilst the patient is in care and at transfer. It also aids communication of changes to medicines made during admission to patients and primary care clinicians.

A medication chart must include a specific section for prescribing variable doses of medicines. This section should facilitate ordering and documentation of drug levels, as appropriate, to assist selection of suitable subsequent doses. It is recommended that this variable dose section be on the inside of the chart with other regular orders to reduce the risk of dose omissions.

A medication chart should include a specific section for documenting venous thrombo-embolism (VTE) risk, prophylaxis appropriateness, ordering and recording administration of VTE chemo-prophylaxis and ordering and recording checking of mechanical prophylaxis. Hospital-associated VTE is a national safety and quality issue with research showing that medication chart prompts can improve the rate of VTE risk assessment and of appropriate prophylaxis prescribing.

A medication chart should include a specific section for prescribing warfarin. Warfarin is associated with adverse events both through under-dosing and overdosing. The warfarin section should enable documentation of both the International Normalised Ration (INR) target range and INR results to facilitate dosing decisions. Ideally, warfarin should be administered at 4 p.m. to ensure morning results are

reviewed and the next dose is ordered by a prescriber familiar with the patient's medication management, rather than by 'after-hours' medical staff.

A medication chart should have a separate section for 'when required' (PRN) medicines in order to distinguish them from medicines that need to be given regularly. The PRN orders should be unambiguous, with clearly defined doses or dose ranges, minimum hourly frequency of administration and a recommended maximum dose in 24 hours, together with the indication for use.

A medication chart should include a specific section for nurse-initiated medicine, in accordance with state regulations and local practices.

Medicine orders should be dated from when the medication chart is rewritten, although medication management review is aided by documenting the date the medicine is started. It is useful to record in the National Medication Management Plan when medicines were commenced.

The chart should encourage prescribing using generic (active ingredient) medicine names. This is to reduce the risk of duplicate orders of the same medicine being made because of unfamiliarity with different trade (brand) names. In addition, medicines are usually stocked on the ward alphabetically by generic name, therefore generic prescribing facilitates location of the drug.

The chart should discourage the use of abbreviations, particularly those known to be error-prone. This reduces the risk of misinterpretation. Recommendations for Terminology, Abbreviations and Symbols used in the Prescribing and Administration of Medicines should be reflected in local health service organisation policy.

The chart should facilitate recording of the administration times by the prescriber, based on a locally agreed standard. This reduces the potential for nurses to misinterpret prescribed administration frequency instructions.

The chart should include a section for clinical pharmacist annotation regarding supply and administration. In addition, a section enabling pharmacists to sign the chart following review by a pharmacist facilitates peer review and improves communication with pharmacists covering the same ward or unit.

The chart should facilitate dispensing of discharge medicine directly from the medication chart, to avoid transcription errors. This may not be applicable for those sites using the PBS for discharge medicines or where separate discharge prescriptions are used. In such cases, local procedures should be developed to ensure that transcription errors are minimised and full medication reconciliation at discharge is facilitated.

The chart should include a section for prescriber contact details (for example, pager number), so that they can be easily contacted.