

1 October 2024 (updated 18 October 2024)

Community Pharmacies offering pharmacy services to ARRC and/or CRC facilities

Tēnā koe

Permanent change to pharmacy ARRC and CRC claiming processes: claiming dispensing without a signed prescription

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdowns, the Ministry of Health introduced a temporary change to the requirement for community pharmacies claiming for medicines dispensed to residents in age-related residential care (ARRC) and community residential care (CRC) facilities to make it easier and faster for pharmacies to be paid.

This responsibility transferred to Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) with the establishment of Health NZ, from 1 July 2022.

Claiming for prescriptions for ARRC/CRC residents was enabled without the requirement for a signed prescription. Pharmacies no longer needed to match telephone or pharmacy generated prescriptions with a prescription which is signed by a prescriber. This provision is to be made permanent.

From 1 October 2024 community pharmacy claiming for dispensed medicines to ARRC/CRC residents is permanently enabled without the requirement for a signed prescription, such that Pharmacies no longer need to match telephone or pharmacy generated prescriptions with a prescription which is signed by a prescriber, provided all the following conditions are met:

- an electronic medicines chart is used by the ARRC/CRC facility, the prescriber and the pharmacy, for the prescribing, dispensing and administration of residents' medicines
- a telephone or pharmacy generated prescription is created that matches the electronic medicines chart, and
- the telephone or pharmacy generated prescription is attached to a physical copy of the medicine chart and is kept and submitted as required by the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA).

For Class A and B controlled drugs, a triplicate Controlled Drug prescription form (H572) with an original prescriber's signature, or a compliant barcoded NZePS¹ electronic prescription, is required.

For Class C controlled drugs, a paper prescription with an original prescriber's signature, or a compliant barcoded NZePS electronic prescription, is required.

Ngā mihi

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¹ NZePS = New Zealand electronic Prescribing System; an approved electronic prescribing system