

# The MedGap Project

*Supported by the J.O. & J.R. Wicking Trust*

## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

### **1. Is the interim medication administration chart legal, given that it is not signed by a medical practitioner?**

- **Yes:** The interim medication administration chart has been developed in consultation with the Drugs & Poisons Unit (Department of Human Services), and they are satisfied that it meets all legal requirements for medication administration in residential care.
- The interim chart is not a prescription, therefore there is no legal requirement for it to be signed by a medical practitioner. The interim chart allows you to record the administration of medications that have been dispensed & labelled with directions by a pharmacist.
- “The legal authority to administer medications is on the dispensed medication, with the chart being a means to **record the transaction**”.

*Drugs and Poisons Unit, Department of Human Services Victoria*

### **2. Does the chart comply with the APAC/ANF “Nursing Guidelines for the Management of Medicines in an Aged Care Setting”?**

- **Yes:** The interim medication administration chart has been developed in consultation with the Australian Nursing Federation, and they are satisfied that it meets the guidelines for medication administration in residential care, provided it is accompanied by a copy of the corresponding discharge prescription that has been signed by a medical practitioner.

### **3. Does the chart comply with aged care accreditation standards?**

- **Yes:** The interim medication administration chart has been developed in consultation with the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency, and they are satisfied that it meets their criteria for a safe and legal medication administration system in residential care.

### **4. How can I be sure that the medication chart is accurate?**

- The interim medication administration chart provided by Austin Health / Northern Health is based on the hospital discharge prescription. Before the interim chart is produced, a hospital pharmacist checks the discharge prescription against the resident’s pre-admission medications and inpatient medication chart, and addresses any discrepancies with the medical team.

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## 5. Does the interim medication chart REPLACE the existing long-term facility chart?

- **Yes:** In most cases the chart will contain a complete list of the medications that the hospital medical team would like the resident to take until they are reviewed by their GP.
- **No:** If there were no changes to the resident's pre-admission medications in hospital, then the chart may only include any NEW medications that were added. In this case the chart should be used in addition to the long-term facility chart. **This will be clearly stated in the "Comments" section of the interim medication chart.**

### For further information, contact:

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The Austin Health / Northern Health Interim Medication Administration Chart has been developed in consultation with the **Aged Care Standards & Accreditation Agency, Australian Nursing Federation, Nurses Board of Victoria**, and the **Victorian Department of Human Services** (Drugs and Poisons Unit, Aged Care Branch, Ambulatory & Continuing Care Programs Branch, Quality Use of Medicines Program), with financial support from the JO & JR Wicking Trust.