

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING PRESCRIPTION MANAGEMENT IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

The Aged Care Panel Regional Medication Advisory Committee (RMAC) has prepared this document to assist GPs, Pharmacists and RACFs to develop strategies that facilitate timely and effective prescription management, in accordance with legislative requirements, to enhance quality use of medicines for older people living in RACFs.

Pharmacists

- At least fortnightly send GPs a 'Required Prescription List' for each resident that has a prescription pending, required or owing.
- Provide GPs with a list of residents in alphabetical order, identify if the prescription is pending, required or owing and provide the necessary information for the GP to write the prescription.
- Advise the GP of the process for return of prescriptions to the Pharmacy e.g. return in self addressed envelope or leave at the RACF for collection by the pharmacy courier.
- Notify the GP of any changes in circumstances that will impact on the supply of medications e.g. stock unavailable
- Identify with the RACF re system for collection of prescription at the facility.

General Practitioners

- Generate prescriptions on the day new medications are ordered.
- Provide authority prescriptions as required.
- Attend to the "Required Prescription List" sent by the pharmacy promptly.
- Send the pharmacy/RACF the prescription for emergency/telephone/fax orders within 7 days.
- Use authorities for six (6) months supply to minimise the number of prescriptions required e.g. Prescription for Temazepam – one (1) phone call to Medicare Australia and one (1) script with five (5) repeats.
- Use Schedule 8 authorities for one (1) month supply. Up to three (3) months supply can be obtained if a written request is submitted in advance to Medicare Australia.
- Make arrangements with covering GPs for the provision of prescriptions when on leave.

RACFs

- Identify with the providing pharmacy a prescription collection system.
- Advise visiting GPs of prescription collection system.
- Place prescriptions in the agreed area for collection by the visiting pharmacy.

Definitions

Pending – Medication is ordered but the pharmacy does not have a valid prescription. The medication IS NOT sent until a prescription is received.

Required – The pharmacy has dispensed the last valid prescription held at the pharmacy for the resident. The request to the GP is for the NEXT prescription for subsequent medication supplies.

Owing – The GP has verbally ordered a medication with the pharmacist or the prescription has been faxed to the pharmacy and the medication has been supplied, however the original prescription has not been received by the pharmacy. Legally the prescription must be received by the pharmacy within 7 days of the order.

Let's all work together on prescription management and reap the benefits.