

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-343

OUTCOME 10: Health Systems, Capacity and Quality

Topic: NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL MEDICATION CHART

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Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) How many facilities will initially be involved?
- b) And the framework for it to be fully implemented?
- c) Tell me, what is the cost of this project?

Answer:

- a) The National Residential Medication Chart (NRMC) phased implementation will involve up to 30 residential aged care facilities in New South Wales.
- b) The NRMC is expected to be phased into residential aged care practice from November 2012. Commencement dates will vary between Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) and will be negotiated to take account of local circumstances, such as charting cycles and stakeholder preparedness. The Commission and RACFs have commenced preparations for a phased implementation.

Initially, the NRMC will be introduced in selected RACFs in New South Wales. Under current legislation, New South Wales is able to exempt specific RACFs and pharmacies to enable supply and claiming direct from a medication chart. NRMC phased implementation is expected to take up to six months and includes pre, during, and post evaluations. This will ensure that the NRMC is assessed in as many different contexts as possible before final recommendations of essential elements for medication charts in RACFs nationally and the NRMC are released.

The phased implementation of the NRMC is expected to take approximately six months from the date the final site is commenced. The NRMC analysis and final recommendations for medication charts following this process will inform the essential elements required for standardised medication charts for use in RACFs nationally.

Once the NRMC has been tested to maximise medication safety and administrative efficiency, further amendments may be required to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) legislation and documentation to support the safe transition from existing

medication charts and PBS supply practices in RACFs. Once these are known, the NRMC and other commercially available charts will need to be updated to comply with PBS and state and territory legislation. Compliant charts may then be used by RACFs to authorise supply, and claiming of eligible PBS/ Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines.

- c) The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is currently being funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to manage the NRMC Project. The allocation for this project is \$827,992.37 (as at 9 November 2012).