



MAR Chart



A MAR chart ensures patients receive the right medicine at the right time and in the correct dose.

PERSONAL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION				
PATIENT NAME:				
GP NAME:				
MEDICATION (Name, strength, dose, frequency etc)	HOUR	1	2	3

What is a MAR Chart?

A MAR (Medication Administration Record) chart is a paper or electronic record used by healthcare staff, such as nurses and care workers, to document the administration of medications to patients or service users in care homes, domiciliary care, or supported living environments. It serves both as an instruction guide and a legal record, helping staff follow prescribed treatments accurately.



A MAR chart typically includes:

- Patient details
- Medication details: Names (brand and generic), strengths, dosages, administration routes (oral, topical, etc.), and special instructions such as timing or whether to take with food
- Administration schedule: Specific times for each dose, including PRN ("as required") medications
- Documentation: Space for staff to record each dose given, missed, or refused, along with initials or signatures for accountability
- Monitoring notes: Observations, side effects, or any issues encountered during administration



Important !

- Accurate MAR charts are a legal requirement under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and can be used as evidence in investigations or court cases, therefore it is crucial to make sure they are accurate and up-to-date.
- MAR charts must only be supplied for medications supplied by the community pharmacy issuing the chart – no MAR charts should be supplied for medications supplied by other sources. The NICE guidance on Managing medicines in care homes may be useful for reference: [Evidence | Managing medicines in care homes | Guidance | NICE](#)

The NICE guidance includes information on the recommendation to record medicines administered on a medicines administration record. This also mentions that supplying pharmacies should produce medicines administration records wherever possible, but only for those medications they supply.



The information in the following two resources may also be useful:

- [NICE : Effective record keeping and ordering of medicines - A quick guide for home care managers providing medicines support](#) . This guide provides details on what the care home should be recording on a MAR chart, which has been provided by the pharmacist, doctor or home care provider.
- [Care Quality Commission guidance on Medicines administration records in adult social care](#) . Provides details on what the medicines administration record should contain and how it should be used.