



NEXT Release Notes 2025.11 - EMAR

Release Overview

This release delivers a focused set of enhancements to strengthen medication safety, streamline order workflows, and improve the accuracy and reliability of clinical documentation in EMAR. With new PRN minimum-frequency controls, automated indication capture, and a simplified confirmation experience, teams can work more confidently and efficiently during medication management.

From preventing early PRN administrations to removing unnecessary steps in order review, these updates support clearer workflows, safer care delivery, and more consistent data handling across the medication lifecycle.

Highlights

PRN Minimum Frequency – Define required intervals between PRN doses, prevent early administrations, and give caregivers clear, real-time eligibility indicators—all carried forward through refills and renewals for consistent, long-term safety.

Manage Orders & Receive Orders Enhancements – A cleaner, more intuitive confirmation experience with the Reason field removed and the Witness Signature section shown only when required, reducing confusion and unnecessary steps.

Automatic Indication Population – EMAR now auto-extracts relevant conditions from order instructions to populate the *Indicated For* field, improving accuracy and reducing manual typing.

These enhancements work together to improve safety, reduce manual effort, and create a more predictable and efficient medication management experience for your teams.

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PRN Minimum Frequency

Safety Controls for PRN Medication Administration

This release introduces a comprehensive set of PRN safety enhancements designed to help your teams administer “as needed” medications confidently and in compliance with prescriber instructions. Communities can now define the minimum time required between PRN doses, prevent early administrations, view clear availability indicators, and ensure those settings carry forward through refills and renewals—making PRN management safer, easier, and more consistent.

Why This Matters

PRN medications often require a specific amount of time between doses. Until now, caregivers relied on manual checks or memory to determine when a resident was eligible for the next dose. These new tools:

- Strengthen medication safety and compliance
- Reduce manual tracking and potential early administrations
- Give caregivers clear, real-time guidance during medication pass
- Allow communities to adopt the new workflow gradually and at their own pace

What's New

1. Configure Minimum Time Between PRN Doses

When a medication is marked as PRN, Med Managers and above can now set the minimum number of **hours or minutes** required between administrations.

- Available on the Add to MAR/TAR and Manage Order screens
- Supports flexible scheduling in hours or minutes
- Blank value = no minimum frequency enforced
- Prevents entry of zero as a valid time interval

The screenshot shows a user interface for configuring medication orders. A red box highlights the 'Set PRN Frequency' section, which includes a checked checkbox, a text input field containing the number '6', and a dropdown menu currently set to 'Hrs'. Below this, there is a 'Schedule' section with a 'Choose Pre-Defined Frequency...' dropdown, 'MAR' and 'TAR' buttons, a 'Give' field with '1' and 'TABS' buttons, a 'PRN' field with 'As Needed' text, a 'Delete' button, a 'Starting' date field with 'December 5, 2025' and a calendar icon, a checked 'No End Date' checkbox, and an 'Add Protocol' button.

This ensures clear, consistent dosing guidance for every PRN order.

2. Automatic Safety Check During Medication Pass

If a caregiver attempts to give a PRN too soon, EMAR will now prevent the administration and display a clear alert:

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“This medication is not available. It will be available in # hours and # minutes.”

- Works for both MAR/TAR pass and Pop & Dot
- Returns the caregiver to the pass screen without recording any action
- Logs an audit event for transparency and safety tracking
- Ensures PRNs are administered only when clinically appropriate



3. PRN Availability Displayed Directly on the MAR Page

Caregivers no longer need to click into each PRN to determine when it was last given.

When a PRN medication is not yet eligible:

- The **Administered** button displays **“PRN Not Available”**
- The green fill is removed
- A **“Last Given”** timestamp appears beneath the button



Once the PRN becomes available, the button automatically returns to its normal “Sign as Administered” state when the page is refreshed.

This gives staff an instant, at-a-glance view of PRN eligibility.

4. PRN Minimum Frequency Persists Across Refills & Renewals

To maintain consistency and reduce repetitive data entry, PRN minimum frequency settings now automatically carried forward when:

- An order is **refilled**, or
- A new order is **renewed** from the same chain

If the time interval is updated on a future continuation, that updated value will carry forward going forward.

This ensures long-term accuracy and reduces administrative workload.

Key Benefits

- **Improved resident safety** through enforced PRN administration intervals
- **Greater compliance** with prescriber and regulatory requirements
- **Faster medication pass workflows** with clear visibility into PRN availability
- **Consistent PRN management** across the entire lifecycle of an order

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- **Fewer manual calculations** and reduced cognitive load for caregivers

Workflow Enhancements

Signature Section Enhancement

We've simplified the Manage Orders and Receive Orders confirmation workflow to reduce unnecessary steps and eliminate confusion. The unused **Reason** field has been fully removed, and the **Witness Signature** section now appears **only when required by your eMAR settings**. When displayed, it contains only the signature fields needed to complete the confirmation—nothing more.

These updates ensure a cleaner, more intuitive interface, helping Med Managers complete order edits with fewer clicks while preserving all historical data for previously recorded Reason values.

What's Improved

- The Reason field no longer appears on Manage Orders or Receive Orders workflows.
- Witness Signature now displays only when your community settings require a second signature.
- Signature sections contain only signature fields—streamlining the process and reducing visual clutter.
- Historical Reason values remain visible in read-only form for full audit continuity.

Automatic Indication Population from Instructions

To reduce manual data entry and improve accuracy, EMAR can now auto-populate the **Indicated For** field using information already provided by the pharmacy. When enabled, the system scans new or updated order instructions for key phrases—such as **“For,” “As Needed For,”** or **“DX”**—and extracts the condition that follows. This creates a faster, more consistent documentation experience for medication orders.

What This Improves

- Reduces manual typing by filling in the Indicated For field when the instructions already contain this information.
- Ensures indication data is consistent and easy to review.
- Supports newly created orders from pharmacy messages or Add to MAR/TAR workflows.
- Allows users to manually adjust the Indicated For field at any time.

How It Works

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- EMAR scans order instructions for trigger phrases (e.g., *For Hypertension, As Needed For Pain, DX GERD*).
- If a phrase is found, the text immediately following is added to the **Indicated For** field.
- If the text is too generic, missing, or blocked by a delimiter, the field remains blank for manual entry.
- Only the first meaningful match is used to ensure clarity.
- Applies to new orders and updated instructions when the indication was previously empty.

Examples include auto-filling **Pain, Dry Eyes, Hypertension**, or **GERD** based on the pharmacy-provided instructions.

EMAR Fixes

This release delivers several important stability and workflow improvements across MAR reporting, pharmacy order handling, and EMAR order validation. These refinements ensure greater reliability, reduce interruptions to medication workflows, and support more accurate documentation for clinical teams.

Medication Administration Record (MAR) – Report Execution

We resolved an issue that prevented the Medication Administration Record from generating when running the All Residents report.

The MAR report now fully supports STAT schedules:

- STAT medications display correctly alongside other orders
- Consistent report generation across all months

This improvement restores full visibility medication administration history.

Receive Orders & Medication Profile – Order Processing Stability

Some users experienced errors when attempting to receive new or updated pharmacy orders, preventing timely activation of medications. This update ensures:

- The Receive Orders workflow opens and functions consistently
- Validated orders can now be received without interruption
- Medication Profiles load reliably

These improvements support smoother daily order processing and reduce delays when initiating resident medications.

Pharmacy Updates for Renewed Orders – Improved Message Handling

EMAR now automatically ignores pharmacy messages that attempt to update medication orders already marked as **renewed**, eliminating unnecessary tasks on the Receive Orders screen.

When this occurs:

- The update is safely ignored
- No action is required from clinical staff

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This ensures teams only see updates that truly require attention and prevents outdated pharmacy payloads from disrupting workflow.

Receive Orders & Manage Orders – Required Field Validation

To strengthen accuracy when creating or editing medication orders, the system now requires all mandatory fields to be completed before saving. As part of this enhancement:

- **“Save All Edits”** and **“Save All Fields”** remain disabled until all required fields are filled
- Real-time validation highlights missing information
- A helpful tooltip appears if a user attempts to save prematurely

This improvement reduces schedule entry errors and ensures that only complete, valid orders are saved.

