

End of Life Care Medicine Administration Record Chart FAQs

This sheet aims to provide answers to common questions related to the End of Life Care Medicine Administration Record (EOLC MAR) Chart.

Q: Does an EOL MAR chart expire?

A: **No!** The EOL MAR chart **does not** have an expiry, but it needs to be reviewed according to patient's prognosis and clinical needs. A new chart is only required if there are changes to the prescription. If the prescription has been reviewed and no changes were made, this should be recorded on the chart or in the patient's notes.

If you are unsure about a MAR chart, you can contact either the patient's GP or the Palliative Care Hub (NHS 111 Option 4, or 07919877241 if unable to reach the hub via 111) for advice.

Q: Does a syringe pump prescription expire 72 hours after it is written if not used?

A: **No!** The syringe pump prescription **does not** expire after 72 hours. It is recommended that in normal circumstances a syringe pump should not be prescribed more than 72 hours in advance of patient need. However, there may be situations where that is appropriate to prescribe a syringe pump in advance, for example when it is recognised that a patient may deteriorate and need a pump over a weekend or in preparation of the oral route becoming unavailable.

If you have a patient for whom a syringe pump was prescribed more than 72 hours ago and only now needs to start the pump, you can contact either the patient's GP or the Palliative Care Hub for advice.

Q: What does it mean when the dose range of a medicine starts at zero?

A: When the MAR chart syringe pump dose range starts at zero, it means the prescriber thinks the patient **may potentially** need the medicine at some point in the future, but that the medicine **does not need to be in the syringe driver** until the patient develops the symptom(s) that medicine is prescribed for. The prescriber needs to specify a starting dose to be included in the syringe driver as and when the symptoms arise in the future. Example syringe driver chart:

Continuous Subcutaneous Syringe Pump 1		
Medicine	Starting dose over 24 hours	Dose/ Range over 24 hours
A Morphine	10mg	10mg – 20mg
B Midazolam	5mg	0 – 10mg

Q: Are any PRN doses required before starting a syringe pump?

A: **No!** the patient does not have to receive any PRN doses before a syringe pump can be started. Syringe pumps should be set up according to patient's needs.

Please contact the Palliative Care Hub if you are unsure about anything on a MAR chart.