

Practice Bulletin

Clarification of Purpose

Purpose

This practice bulletin provides important information for Endeavour Foundation staff regarding how to ensure treating Doctors correctly complete a Clarification of Purpose of Medication (CoPM) form.

Requirements

Under the *Disability Services Act 2006* and *NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018*, some medication could be considered chemical restraint and therefore a restrictive practice.

To ensure that all prescribed medication administered to a customer also meets legislative requirements, Endeavour Foundation requires that a customer's treating Doctor fills out a standardised form – see link [Clarification of Purpose Medication \(CoPM\)](#)

Please note: CoPM is specific to each state, if a CoPM is required for NSW/Vic sites, please contact the Complex Support ComplexSupport@endeavour.com.au

Steps for completing a CoPM

- When making an appointment with the customer's treating doctor, advise that completion of the CoPM may be part of the visit. For some treating doctor's, this may require a longer appointment be booked.
- Take a printed-out copy of the CoPM to the appointment, so that the treating doctor can complete.
- Ensure the treating doctor is aware of the legislative requirements regarding the completion of the form (see above).
- To ensure the form is completed correctly, stay with the treating doctor whilst the form is completed.
- For each medication (routine or PRN), the treating doctor should **tick ONE box** regarding the **PRIMARY PURPOSE** of the medication.
 - If they tick '**mental health condition**', they need to write a specific diagnosis (e.g. *Depression or Schizophrenia*).
 - Generic terms such as '**mood disorder**' won't be accepted by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.
 - If they tick '**physical condition**', they need to write a specific diagnosis (e.g. *Dementia or Epilepsy*).
- Ensure that the treating doctor **stamps, signs and dates** the bottom of the form.

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Examples

Below are some common examples of when a CoPM is essential and the key actions required of staff and treating doctors.

For a customer who is diagnosed with Dementia, engages in behaviour of concern, and is prescribed Risperidone:

ACTION REQUIRED: The Doctor should tick 'Controlling Behaviour', not 'Physical Condition'.

RATIONALE: Although Dementia is a physical condition, in this instance, it is also 'causing' the behaviour of concern. The Risperidone does not have an effect on the progression of Dementia.

For a customer who is diagnosed with Dementia, engages in behaviour of concern, and is prescribed Exelon:

ACTION REQUIRED: The Doctor should tick 'Physical Condition'.

RATIONALE: The primary purpose of Exelon is to treat the physical symptoms of Dementia by preventing the breakdown of acetylcholine in the brain.

Further assistance

Please contact the Complex Support team for advice by completing a [referral form](#) and submitting to ComplexSupport@endeavour.com.au

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