

LONG TERM CARE (LTC) E- NEWSLETTER – Dec 2013/Jan 2014: Volume 12, Number 1

The [LTC E-Newsletter](#) is a monthly electronic newsletter of the [Long Term Care Community Coalition](#). Note to Readers: To go directly to an article, click on its page number in the Table of Contents. Once you are at the article, click on any underlined text for a link to more information or to send a message in “Spotlight on Advocacy.”

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Table of Contents

Misuse of Antipsychotic Drugs in Nursing Homes: Are We Making Any Progress?..... 1

CDC Issues Brief Report on Dementia Special Care Units in Residential Care Communities..... 2

US Dept. of Health & Human Services [HHS] Announces Affordable Care Act Mental Health Services Funding..... 2

We’re on the Web!..... 3

LTCCC Links of Interest..... 3

[Misuse of Antipsychotic Drugs in Nursing Homes: Are We Making Any Progress?](#)

The [Center for Medicare Advocacy](#) issued an Alert in November which reviews progress and recent developments in the federal campaign to reduce the inappropriate use of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes. The Alert provides a review of progress to date in the federal campaign to reduce the inappropriate use of antipsychotics on people with dementia, the legal settlement with Johnson & Johnson of over \$2 billion for illegal marketing of these drugs and other important oversight issues.

[\[http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/misuse-of-antipsychotic-drugs-in-nursing-homes-are-we-making-any-progress/\]](http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/misuse-of-antipsychotic-drugs-in-nursing-homes-are-we-making-any-progress/)

CDC Issues Brief Report on Dementia Special Care Units in Residential Care Communities

In November the CDC (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) issued a data brief on the number and characteristics of dementia care units in residential care communities in the United States. The data are for 2010. Following are the key findings and summary from the CDC's website (note: reference links in original removed):

- In 2010, 17% of residential care communities had dementia special care units.
- Beds in dementia special care units accounted for 13% of all residential care beds.
- Residential care communities with dementia special care units were more likely than those without to have more beds, be chain-affiliated, and be purposely built as a residential care community, and less likely to be certified or registered to participate in Medicaid.
- Residential care communities with dementia special care units were more likely than those without to be located in the Northeast and in a metropolitan statistical area, and less likely to be in the West.

Assisted living and similar residential care communities provide an alternative to nursing homes for individuals with dementia who can no longer live independently. In 2010, about 42% of individuals living in residential care communities had Alzheimer's disease or other dementia. Individuals with dementia can live in residential care communities that have dementia special care units, or in a more traditional setting where these residents are integrated with residents without dementia. Many states require residential care communities with dementia special care units to have certain physical features (e.g., locked door) and specially trained staff to care for residents with dementia. This report compares residential care communities with and without dementia special care units.

[<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db134.htm>]

US Dept. of Health & Human Services [HHS] Announces Affordable Care Act Mental Health Services Funding

On December 10, HHS announced that it plans to provide \$50 million in funding "to help Community Health Centers establish or expand behavioral health services for people living with mental illness, and drug and alcohol problems." It is estimated these awards will support behavioral health expansion in approximately 200 existing health centers nationwide. Community Health Centers will be able to use these new funds, made available through the Affordable Care Act, for efforts such as hiring new mental health and substance use disorder professionals, adding mental health and substance use disorder services, and employing team-based models of care.

[Full text of this excerpted HHS press release is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/12/20131210a.html>.]

We're on the Web!

www.ltccc.org: Our main website, with access to all of our issues, policy briefs and research.

www.assisted-living411.org: For information on assisted living, including consumer issues and policies.

www.nursinghome411.org: For information on developments in nursing home care, regulation and policy issues.

LTCCC Links of Interest

[View](#) the latest enforcement actions against nursing homes in New York State.

[Read](#) the latest edition of LTCCC's quarterly newsletter, *The Monitor*.

LTCCC's dedicated [webpage on antipsychotic drugs and dementia care](#).

[Report on NY State Nursing Homes in Managed Long Term Care](#)

[Piecing Together Quality Long-Term Care: A Consumer's Guide to Choices and Advocacy in New York](#).

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