

LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice

Update & Issue Alert: Prevalence of Antipsychotic Drugging of Nursing Home Residents

Twenty Percent (20%) of Residents Receiving Powerful, Potentially Lethal Drugs

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New York, NY, November 30, 2017— The inappropriate antipsychotic drugging of nursing home residents, particularly those with dementia, is a widespread, national problem. Despite the Food and Drug Administration's 'black box' warnings against using powerful and dangerous antipsychotics on elderly patients with dementia, they are frequently used to treat the so-called behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia.

These and other psychotropic drugs are often used as a form of chemical restraint, sedating residents so that not only their behaviors but also the underlying causes for those behaviors do not have to be addressed by staff. In addition to destroying social and emotional well-being, these drugs greatly increase risks of stroke, heart attack, diabetes, Parkinsonism, and falls. They are **not** clinically indicated for dementia-related psychosis. They **are** associated with a significant increase in death when given to elderly people with dementia.

Reducing the inappropriate and dangerous drugging of nursing home residents is a focal point of LTCCC's advocacy. **Today, we are announcing the release of the following new information and resources:**

Issue Alert on Antipsychotic Drugs: This alert explains how and why this is a significant issue for so many nursing home residents. It includes a case study of a citation for inappropriate antipsychotic drugging.

Drugging Rates for Every Nursing Home: While the rate of antipsychotic drugging is high across the country, nursing homes vary widely in their drugging rates. Some nursing homes have taken significant strides to reduce their inappropriate drugging while other have not. Thus, we believe it is critical for the public to know about the drugging rates for their nursing homes and those in their communities. The latest rates are available on our website, <http://nursinghome411.org/us-nursing-home-antipsychotic-drugging-rates-2017q3/> in an easy-to-use format. The files can be sorted to see which facilities in your state have higher – or lower – drugging rates.

Drugging Enforcement Data: Has your nursing home been cited for inappropriate drugging? This page, <http://nursinghome411.org/us-nursing-home-...ns-november-2017/>, provides searchable information on citations for every state.

Dementia Care Advocacy Toolkit: Free resources to help families, and those who work with them, know their rights and advocate for less drugging and better care for their residents with dementia.

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LTCCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving care and quality of life for residents in nursing homes and other residential care settings. Visit www.nursinghome411.org for more information about nursing home quality and compliance with minimum safety standards as well as our free resources for LTC consumers.