

LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice

Timeline on Antipsychotic Drugging in America's Nursing Homes: 1987 - 2018

Why This Is An Important Issue & How Both Government And The Nursing Home Industry Have Failed Nursing Home Residents, Their Families, And US Taxpayers

1987: Nursing Home Reform Law prohibits inappropriate drugging and use of chemical restraints.

2005: FDA Issues "Black-Box Warning" on serious risks of atypical antipsychotic drugs for elderly patients with dementia.

2011: US HHS Inspector General Levinson [states](#):

(1) **"Government, taxpayers, nursing home residents, as well as their families and caregivers should be outraged"** by the "overmedication" of nursing home residents.

(2) "A little **more than half of the antipsychotic drug claims for which Medicare paid should not have been covered** because the claimed drugs were not used for medically accepted indications or not documented as provided to patients." [Emphases added.]

2012: CMS (US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) launches "National Partnership" campaign to tackle inappropriate drugging. Nursing home industry commits to campaign's initial, "modest" goal to reduce drugging by 15% over next 10 months.

2014: CMS and nursing home lobbyists announce that self-described "modest" 10 month goal has been accomplished after 22 months. They state that campaign has been a "success."

[LTCCC study](#) finds: (1) "three years after the US OIG's alarming report, almost 300,000 nursing home residents are being given antipsychotics..." and (2) "80,000 residents are being given these drugs today, at great personal and financial cost, simply **because CMS and the industry failed to achieve and sustain their initial goal.**" [Emphasis added.]

2018: Widespread antipsychotic drugging continues, at considerable human and financial cost:

(1) Human Rights Watch releases [Abuse of Antipsychotics in Nursing Homes: The Human Tragedy](#).

(2) Nursing home industry lobbyists at the American Health Care Association tell policymakers and the public that the effort to reduce unnecessary drugging has been a "[success](#)."

(3) LTCCC's analysis of federal data indicates that **approximately 20% of nursing home resident – over 250,000 individuals – are still being given antipsychotic drugs.** Less than 2% of the population will ever have a condition for which CMS risk-adjusts for potentially appropriate antipsychotic drugging.