

# LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

*Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice*

## NURSING HOME UPDATE:

### INAPPROPRIATE ANTIPSYCHOTICS PERVASIVE IN U.S. NURSING HOMES

**August 7, 2020** – Inappropriate antipsychotic drugging is a longstanding, pervasive problem in US nursing homes. Each week, almost 300,000 nursing home residents receive antipsychotic drugs, largely without clinical justification. Studies have shown that inappropriate drugging can damage social and emotional well-being while increasing risks of stroke, heart attack, diabetes, Parkinsonism, and falls.

Despite the Food and Drug Administration’s ‘black box’ warnings against using antipsychotics on elderly patients, too many facilities routinely administer antipsychotics as a form of chemical restraint, to sedate residents rather than taking time to understand the resident and provide appropriate care.

**Today, The Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) is releasing the latest antipsychotic drugging rates for every US nursing home from the [third quarter](#) and [fourth quarter of 2019](#).**

Individual data files are available for each US state. They can be sorted by facility, county, zip code, and antipsychotic drug rates.

The latest data indicate that powerful antipsychotic drugs are being administered to approximately one in five nursing home residents, or 10 times the proportion of the population that will ever have a diagnosis recognized by CMS as qualifying for potentially appropriate use.

LTCCC is concerned that the lack of accountability and oversight in nursing homes is putting residents in grave danger of the deleterious effects of antipsychotics. Though the latest antipsychotic drugging rates are consistent with those from previous quarters, citations for over-prescribing antipsychotics are on the decline under the Trump Administration, [according to a new Congressional study](#).

In addition to data on nursing home drugging rates, LTCCC’s website, [www.nursinghome411.org](http://www.nursinghome411.org), offers numerous resources for consumers and the public, including:

- **[Issue Alert on Antipsychotic Drugs](#)**: This explains how and why this is a significant issue for so many nursing home residents and features a case study of a citation for inappropriate antipsychotic drugging.
- **[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.
- **[Webinar: Understanding & Advocating for Residents with Dementia](#)**: Watch LTCCC’s one-hour webinar on advocating for residents with dementia. Watch [LTCCC’s monthly webinars](#) live on Zoom or watch recordings on YouTube. The next webinar, “Reimagining Nursing Home Care,” is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 at 1pm ET.
- **[LTCCC’s Coronavirus Resource Center](#)**: LTCCC’s Coronavirus page provides information on COVID-19 in long-term care settings to help you navigate this crisis. Visit [nursinghome411.org/coronavirus/](http://nursinghome411.org/coronavirus/) to access information on **Resources, Data, News & Reports, and Federal Guidance/Requirements**.