

Quick Tips for Reducing Antipsychotic Drug Usage



Each month, evaluate with the ordering physicians.

- Why is the resident prescribed these medications?
- Can there be a gradual rate reduction to remove resident from medications?

Create a root cause analysis or data collection form that works for you.

- Two example forms have been provided for you. Choose one that works best for you or create your own.

Use caution with subjective data collection.



- Questions like “Are these medications still warranted?” may be a judgment call. If this is the case, cut it from your collection.
- Asking why the medication was recommended or who recommended it can be sensitive information, but may lead to the source, which needs to be identified and addressed.
- It may be uncomfortable or awkward to ask questions about why antipsychotic medications are used. For example, you may find out they are to avoid a physical restraint, the resident or his or her family requested them or they are simply a convenience. However, when looking after the residents’ best interests, tough questions need to be asked.

Adverse side effects of antipsychotic medications include, but are not limited to



- strokes,
- diabetes,
- loss of movement,
- death.

Antipsychotic medications will not help with

- socialization,
- caring for oneself,
- memory problems,
- not paying attention,
- caring about what is going on,
- yelling,
- repeating questions over and over,
- being restless.

Modifications in interactions or activities can help in reducing or even eliminating the use of antipsychotic medications.

