



# Quality Measure Tip Sheet: Antipsychotic Medication—Long Stay

## Quality Measure Overview

- Reports the percentage of long-stay residents who are receiving antipsychotic drugs in a **7-day look-back period**.

### Exclusions:

- Residents with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, Tourette’s syndrome, or Huntington’s disease.

## MDS Coding Requirements

In the Minimum Data Set (MDS):

- Indicate the number of days the resident received antipsychotic medications during the last seven days (or since admission/entry/re-entry if less than seven days).



## Ask These Questions ...

- Is the MDS coding accurate?
- Are psychotropic medications only being used when appropriate to enhance the resident’s quality of life while maximizing his or her functional potential and well-being?
- Have the least restrictive interventions been attempted first?
- Have staff members analyzed the resident holistically to rule out underlying conditions, such as medical causes, that are affecting behavior?
- Are activities individualized and specific to the resident to alleviate boredom?
- Are basic needs being met?
- Are dementia residents hungry/thirsty and instructed when to eat/drink?
- Are dementia residents dressed appropriately for the weather and their age?
- Is the resident’s incontinence being managed?
- Is the resident’s pain being managed?
- Is the nursing home environment calming? Are there areas for private space? Is clutter managed? Are residents’ belongings organized to decrease confusion?
- Do residents have a sense of trust with their caregivers?
- Are there consistent staff member assignments?
- Are there consistent routines?
- Are orders received from outside vendors, such as hospice, monitored? (*These vendors may use antipsychotic medications to control conditions such as nausea and vomiting that could be controlled by a less restrictive medication or antiemetic.*)
- Are gradual-dose reductions completed per regulation?
- Does the facility involve direct-care staff members, physicians, and pharmacists in pharmacy and therapeutic meetings at least quarterly?
- Is a behavior-tracking process in place to monitor for changes?
- Are adverse side effects of drugs monitored and treated accordingly?
- Do residents obtain psychological services for treatment if indicated?
- Are staff members and family educated on behavior management and nonpharmacological interventions?

For guidance on your quality measures, reach out to Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG).

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