

## Dementia Care Focused Area

### Initiation or continuation of an antipsychotic medication for a resident with dementia QMP job-aide.

When you are conducting your review of the medical records of a resident who has been initiated on an antipsychotic or continued on an antipsychotic medication, there are several questions that you should ask (that the interdisciplinary team should have also asked) to determine the necessity of the medication for the resident. The answers to these questions should be accurately documented in the resident's clinical record. If you do not find the information to these questions during the review, it is important to work with the interdisciplinary team to determine the answers, thereby determining the need for these medications. The questions and space for the answers are available in the table below:

Question	Answer
1. What is the resident trying to communicate through the behavior?	
2. What are the possible reasons for the behavior that led to medication being ordered?	
3. What other approaches and interventions were attempted prior to the use of antipsychotic medications?	
4. Was the family member or responsible party contacted prior to the initiation of the medication?	
5. Is the medication clinically indicated and necessary to treat a specific condition and target symptoms as diagnosed and documented in the clinical record?	
6. Has the medication been adjusted to the lowest possible dosage to achieve the desired therapeutic effect?	
7. Have gradual dose reductions been planned and	

Question	Answer
behavioral interventions (unless contraindicated) provided in an effort to discontinue the medication?	
8. Has the interdisciplinary team, including the primary physician/practitioner, been involved in the care planning process?	
9. Does the staff monitor for the effectiveness and possible adverse consequences of the medication?	

When performing your review, you should also be looking to see if there are any non-pharmacological interventions that have been attempted with this resident. Anytime that a resident is initiated or continued on an antipsychotic medication, there should also be attempts at non-pharmacological interventions, unless contraindicated. If non-pharmacological interventions have been attempted, indicate these interventions as well as the resident's response in the table below. Ensure that any and all interventions that the NF staff indicate have been attempted with this resident are documented on the clinical record. For those interventions that received a positive response, they should be placed on the care plan as well.

Non-pharmacological Interventions	Response
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	