

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Educate Yourself And Your Staff

The following resources can help ensure that your policies are based on the latest evidence for managing dementia-related problem behaviors:

American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults.

Released in 2012, this guideline clearly advises against the use of antipsychotics unless non-pharmacologic interventions have failed and the resident is a threat to himself or others. It covers 53 medications or medication classes, which are divided into three categories: potentially inappropriate medications and classes to avoid in older adults, potentially inappropriate medications and classes to avoid in older adults with certain diseases and syndromes that the drugs listed can exacerbate, and medications to be used with caution in older adults. Table 8 outlines in detail antipsychotic drugs to avoid.

Resource: Go to www.americangeriatrics.org/health_care_professionals/clinical_practice and then click on guidelines.

A Systematic Evidence Review of Non-pharmacological Interventions for Behavioral Symptoms of Dementia.

Published in 2011 by the **U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs**, this publication asks and answers an important three-part question: How do non-pharmacological treatments of behavioral symptoms compare in effectiveness, safety, and cost with each other, with pharmacological approaches, and with no treatment?