

## Long-Term Care Survey Alert

### **MEDICATION MANAGEMENT: Too Many Of These Drugs Can Add Up To Anticholinergic Toxicity**

**If a resident develops delirium or confusion, review his meds.**

One medication with anticholinergic properties may not cause an elderly resident problems. But a combination of them--or adding just one more--may tip the person into anticholinergic toxicity, including confusion or delirium, according to **Susan Scanland, MSN, APRN, BC-NP**, in a presentation at the March **American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators** conference in Las Vegas. Some common culprits include:

Furosemide  
Dyazide  
Lanoxin  
Dipyridamole  
Theophylline, anhydrous  
Warfarin  
Prednisone  
Nifedipine  
Isosorbide dinitrate  
Codeine  
Captopril  
Imipramine/Desipramine  
Amitriptyline  
Cimetidine  
Rantidine  
Tobra/Clinda/Gentamicin  
Ampicillin  
Hydralzine  
Diazepam

Source: Tune LE, Egeli S. Acetylcholine and delirium. *Dementia Geriat Cogn Disorder* 1999; 10:342-344 as cited by the handout for a presentation, "Assessment of Delirium, Depression and Dementia," by Susan Scanland at March AANAC.