

MDS Alert

Reader Questions: Don't Count Medication Switch as a Dose Reduction

Question: One of our residents is switching from one antipsychotic medication to another. Would this count as a gradual dose reduction (GDR)?

Georgia Subscriber



Answer: The RAI Manual defines a gradual dose reduction as the "step-wise tapering of a dose to determine whether or not symptoms, conditions, or risks can be managed by a lower dose or whether or not the dose or medication can be discontinued," on page N-8. However, this is a medication switch.

On page N-14, the RAI Manual says: "Do not count as a GDR an antipsychotic medication reduction performed for the purpose of switching the resident from one antipsychotic medication to another."