Whereas, The federal government does not publicly disclose the use of antipsychotic drugs given to nursing home residents diagnosed with schizophrenia; and

Whereas, Antipsychotic drugs have historically been used as chemical restraints to keep nursing home residents docile, circumventing the costs associated with additional staffing required to manage nursing home residents; and

Whereas, Because the Food and Drug Administration has issued “black box” warnings regarding the risks of antipsychotic use among elderly patients with dementia, high rates of antipsychotic drug use can lower a nursing home’s star rating from the federal government, thus damaging the reputation and desirability of the nursing home;¹ and

Whereas, The percentage of nursing home residents diagnosed with schizophrenia has increased in 2021;² and

Whereas, Nearly one-third of nursing home residents reported in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Minimum Data Set (MDS) as having schizophrenia did not have any evidence of this diagnosis in their Medicare claims history, meaning they were likely prescribed antipsychotic drugs but were excluded because of their diagnosis;³ and

Whereas, Current AMA policy “will ask CMS to cease and desist in issuing citations or financial penalties for medically necessary and appropriate use of antipsychotics for the treatment of dementia-related psychosis; and ask CMS to discontinue the use of antipsychotic medication as a factor contributing to the Nursing Home Compare rankings, unless the data utilized is limited to medically inappropriate administration of these medications”;⁴ therefore be it
RESOLVED, That American Medical Association Policy D-120.951, “Appropriate Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Nursing Home Patients,” be amended by addition and deletion to read as follows:

Our AMA will: (1) meet with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for a determination that acknowledges that antipsychotics can be an appropriate treatment for dementia-related psychosis if non-pharmacologic approaches have failed and will ask CMS to cease and desist in issuing citations or financial penalties for medically necessary and appropriate use of antipsychotics for the treatment of dementia-related psychosis; and (2) ask CMS to discontinue the use of antipsychotic medication as a factor contributing to the Nursing Home Compare rankings, unless the data utilized is limited to medically inappropriate administration of these medications; and (3) require the reporting of all antipsychotic drugs used and the diagnoses for which they are prescribed. (Modify Current HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 03/01/22

3 CMS Could Improve the Data It Uses to Monitor Antipsychotic Drugs in Nursing Homes, OEI-07-19-00490. 22.

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Appropriate Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Nursing Home Patients D-120.951

Our AMA will: (1) meet with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for a determination that acknowledges that antipsychotics can be an appropriate treatment for dementia-related psychosis if non-pharmacologic approaches have failed and will ask CMS to cease and desist in issuing citations or financial penalties for medically necessary and appropriate use of antipsychotics for the treatment of dementia-related psychosis; and (2) ask CMS to discontinue the use of antipsychotic medication as a factor contributing to the Nursing Home Compare rankings, unless the data utilized is limited to medically inappropriate administration of these medications.

Res. 523, A-12; Appended: Res. 708, A-19