

**CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION -
LONG-TERM CARE QUALITY INDICATOR**

**Potentially Inappropriate Use of
Antipsychotics in Long-Term Care**

What this means:

This indicator measures the percentage of long-term care residents who are taking antipsychotic medications without being diagnosed with psychosis or a condition associated with psychosis (e.g., schizophrenia). These medications are appropriate to give to residents with a diagnosis of psychosis, including those with dementia who experience psychosis, or for those who experience hallucinations that are troublesome.

Alberta results:

In 2014/15, 21.1% of long-term care residents were on antipsychotics without a diagnosis of psychosis. This is an improvement from the results of the previous four years.

Steps for continued improvement:

Alberta Health Services has implemented a program that reduces the use of these medications in residents without a diagnosis of psychosis. Early results of the program led to 50% fewer residents receiving antipsychotics without a diagnosis in the facilities taking part in a pilot of the program. All long-term care facilities in the province have been invited to use strategies to safely reduce use of these medications. See the Alberta Health Services website at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/auatoolkit.asp> for more information on this program.

Alberta Health Services has also developed a toolkit of resources to help manage some of the behaviours in residents with dementia that uses other techniques rather than using medication (e.g., music therapy).

For more information:

www.health.alberta.ca/services/continuing-care-CIHI-RAI.html

