

Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics (AUA) and Medication Reviews

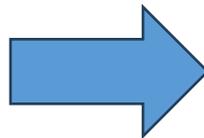
The AUA Medication Review is a key step in a process that leads to:

- *A reduction in the risk of harm from serious medication side effects*
- *Improved quality of life for residents*



What you'll need to collect (prior to the medication review):

1. Pharmacist's list of residents on antipsychotics
2. Behavior maps or tracking
3. Progress notes, family input, staff reports
4. Assessment of underlying causes



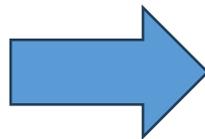
Who should attend:

- Prescriber and/or Pharmacist
- Nursing
- Allied Health (PT,OT,SW,RT)
- HCAs
- Site or organizational leaders

Ensure these groups are represented and part of the process!

Discuss during the medication review:

1. **Appropriateness**
Long-term use: diagnosis of chronic mental illness
Short-term use: risk of harm to self or others
2. **Responsive Behaviors** (patterns, changes)
3. **Side effects** (review staff reports/notes)
4. **Tapering or discontinuation** if possible



Notify after the review:

- Prescriber (follow your protocols)
- Resident, family members or alternate decision-makers
- All other frontline staff

Update the Care Plan:

- Include recommendations from the medication review team
- Try alternate, person-centered, non-pharmacological approaches

Did You Know?

Where an antipsychotic or any medication is used as a pharmacological restraint, the [Continuing Care Health Service Standards \(CCHSS 2024\)](#) require a minimum monthly medication review by the prescriber and the interdisciplinary team to ensure appropriateness of the medication.

For more information, contact:

AUA@ahs.ca

Or visit: [AUA Toolkit | Alberta Health Services](#)



Seniors Health & Continuing Care

