

UNNECESSARY DRUGS TIP SHEET

Read Carefully!! These are important issues to remember for preventing potential citations

Definition: CFR 483.25(I)(1)

An unnecessary drug is **any drug** when used:

- in an **excessive dose** (including duplicate therapy); or
- for **excessive duration**,
- **without** adequate **monitoring**
- **without** adequate **indications for its use**
- in the **presence of adverse consequences** that indicate the dose should be reduced or discontinued, or
- **any combination of reasons** above.

Psychoactive Medications

Psychoactive drugs **require a comprehensive assessment** to determine necessity related to specific diagnoses and **require attempts at gradual dose reductions and behavioral interventions** unless clinically contraindicated.

Monitoring for effectiveness of the drug and presence of side efforts **is paramount. This MUST BE documented.**

Non-pharmacological interventions **must be attempted** prior to administering PRN doses OR introducing a new psychoactive drug.

Psychoactive medications **require care planning** that includes a detailed problem statement, non-pharmacological as well as pharmacological interventions and a measurable goal

Other Medications

Medications should have **associated diagnoses.**

Medications **intended for short-duration use** should only be used for that period of time, such as steroids, antibiotics, proton pump inhibitors, and anticoagulants as medically indicated.

Monitoring may include: **vital signs, laboratory values, and documented evidence of clinical response, resident acceptance or refusal, presence of side effects, and any adverse drug reaction or drug consequence.**

Care Plans should reflect the type and frequency of monitoring interventions and goals should be related to the desired outcomes of the medication therapy.