



Reducing Psychotropic Medication Use in a CMS Focus Facility: A Proactive Approach to Safer Prescribing

As part of its designation as a CMS Special Focus Facility (SFF), this organization prioritized the need to reduce unnecessary use of psychotropic medications. In support of a broader Performance Improvement Project (PIP) through the Culture of Safety Center (CSC), the facility committed to enhancing medication safety and promoting resident-centered care.

Strategic Approach

To address psychotropic prescribing concerns, the facility implemented a thoughtful and collaborative strategy aimed at strengthening clinical decision-making and increasing awareness among staff, residents, and families. The initiative included a series of coordinated efforts to evaluate prescribing patterns, review clinical appropriateness, and foster communication across disciplines.

Key focus areas included

- Enhancing internal review processes to identify high-risk prescribing trends
- Engaging key stakeholders in conversations about appropriate medication use
- Promoting informed decision-making through targeted outreach and education
- Aligning documentation practices with clinical and regulatory expectations

Results

- Achieved a reduction in psychotropic medication use that surpassed project goals
- Strengthened alignment between diagnoses and documented treatment rationale
- Increased engagement among residents and families in care planning discussions
- Improved coordination across clinical and pharmacy teams

Key Insight

Even under heightened regulatory scrutiny, facilities can achieve meaningful clinical outcomes by proactively evaluating prescribing practices and fostering a culture of shared accountability. Targeted efforts—when supported by leadership and staff engagement—can drive safer, more effective medication management.

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