The National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes is committed to improving the quality of care for individuals with dementia living in nursing homes. The National Partnership has a mission to deliver health care that is person-centered, comprehensive and interdisciplinary with a specific focus on protecting residents from being prescribed antipsychotic medications unless there is a valid, clinical indication and a systematic process to evaluate each individual’s need. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) promotes a multidimensional approach that includes; research, partnerships and state-based coalitions, revised surveyor guidance, training for providers and surveyors and public reporting.

CMS is tracking the progress of the National Partnership by reviewing publicly reported measures. The official measure of the Partnership is the percentage of long-stay nursing home residents who are receiving an antipsychotic medication, excluding those residents diagnosed with schizophrenia, Huntington’s Disease or Tourette’s Syndrome. In 2011Q4, 23.9 percent of long-stay nursing home residents were receiving an antipsychotic medication; since then there has been a decrease of 41 percent to a national prevalence of 14.1 percent in 2020Q2. Success has varied by state and CMS region, with some states and regions having seen a reduction of greater than 45 percent. CMS acknowledges that circumstances exist where clinical indications for the use of antipsychotic medications are present and does not expect that the national prevalence of antipsychotic medication use will decrease to zero.

A four-quarter average of this measure is posted to the Care Compare website at https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, quality measures were frozen at the time the data were pulled for this report. Because of this, the four-quarter average consists of data from 2019Q1 – 2019Q4.

For more information on the National Partnership, please send correspondence to dnh_behavioralhealth@cms.hhs.gov.

Source: CMS Quality Measure, based on MDS 3.0 data. For more information, see the MDS 3.0 Quality Measures Users Manual.
Quarterly Prevalence of Antipsychotic Use for Long-Stay Residents, CMS Regions

Source: CMS Quality Measure, based on MDS 3.0 data. For more information, see the MDS 3.0 Quality Measures Users Manual.