

Understanding Potentially Inappropriate Use of Antipsychotics in Long-Term Care

Antipsychotic medication is often prescribed to long-term care residents (without a diagnosis of psychosis) to manage behavioural and psychological symptoms associated with dementia.

How it is measured

Percentage of residents who received antipsychotics among all residents with a valid assessment

Residents were excluded if they had

- Schizophrenia
- Huntington's
- Delusions
- Hallucinations
- End-stage disease
- Hospice care

How to find data

- CIHI Public Reports (LTC Dashboard, Quick Stats)
- CIHI Secure Reports

24%

National rate of **potentially inappropriate antipsychotics**

1 in 4

Residents take antipsychotics without a diagnosis of psychosis

60%

Residents have a **diagnosis of dementia**

16–49%

Regional variation in residents taking **potentially inappropriate antipsychotics**

Source: CIHI, 2023

Canada's target

The Appropriate Use Coalition (AUC) panel recommended a national target of **15%** or less for potentially inappropriate antipsychotic use in long-term care, based on CIHI data. Homes with high usage should aim to reduce rates by **15%** annually, gradually and safely.



How to cite this document:

Canadian Institute for Health Information. *Understanding Potentially Inappropriate Use of Antipsychotics in Long-Term Care*. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2025.