

LONG-TERM CARE ANTIPSYCHOTIC USAGE

Plan to Reduce Antipsychotic Usage in Long-Term Care

According to data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), in 2023–2024, the national rate of potentially inappropriate antipsychotic use in long-term care reached more than 24%. This continued an increasing trend seen since 2019, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through work between the Appropriate Use Coalition (AUC) and the CIHI, a **national target of 15% or less was set.**

The AUC also recommended that homes with high rates of antipsychotic use aim to **decrease utilization by 15% year over year.** The **goal is to reduce gradually and safely,** avoiding abrupt changes that could create other safety concerns for residents.

If achieved, the **15% target for long-term care homes in Canada would result in an estimated 21,000 fewer people receiving potentially inappropriate antipsychotics across the country,** compared with 2023–2024, potentially resulting in fewer side effects, falls, hospitalizations, deaths or other harms.

CIHI National Target

What Is This Measure?

This indicator tracks the percentage of long-term care residents prescribed antipsychotic medications without a diagnosis of psychosis. It excludes residents with conditions such as schizophrenia, Huntington's chorea, delusions, hallucinations, or those receiving end-of-life care.

Why It Matters

Northwood monitors antipsychotic use to reduce potentially inappropriate prescriptions, improve resident care, and compare performance across sites to identify areas for improvement.

Our Goal & Path Forward

To meet the CIHI national target of 15%, Northwood is committed to reducing potentially inappropriate antipsychotic use by 15% year over year.

To achieve this, we will:

- Conduct regular reviews of antipsychotic prescriptions to ensure clinical appropriateness.
- Provide staff training on non-pharmacological approaches to managing responsive behaviours.
- Increase family engagement and education around alternatives to antipsychotic use.
- Monitor and audit prescribing trends to identify opportunities for improvement.

Potentially Inappropriate Use of Antipsychotics in Long-Term Care (%)

