

**Subject:** Reducing Antipsychotic Use in ND SNFs — **A Call to Action**

Dear [Provider Name],

North Dakota ranks **48th nationally** in antipsychotic use among long-stay SNF residents—a troubling indicator of overuse and potential harm.

Antipsychotics are often prescribed off-label for dementia-related behaviors, but they carry serious risks for older adults, including:

- **Increased risk of stroke, heart failure, infections, and death**
- **Severe sedation, confusion, and cognitive decline**
- **Higher rates of falls, frailty, and behavioral worsening**[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

We're asking for your partnership to help improve care and reduce unnecessary use. Providers can support this effort by:

- **Evaluating root causes** of behaviors before prescribing
- **Supporting gradual dose reductions**
- **Promoting non-drug interventions**
- **Ensuring accurate diagnoses and documentation**

Together, we can improve outcomes and restore dignity for our residents. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your Title/Organization]**

**[Contact Information]**

#### References

[1] [Antipsychotics Use May Worsen Behavior in Nursing Homes](#)

[2] [Antipsychotic Drugs in Nursing Homes | U.S. News](#)

[3] [The Risks of Inappropriate Antipsychotic Use in Nursing Homes](#)