



# PADONA /LTCN

Pennsylvania Association of  
Directors of Nursing Administration

DEDICATED TO SERVICE  
COMMITTED TO CARING

AUGUST 2016

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## PADONA ENews

Dear PADONA Members:

Hopefully you are managing to stay cool during this recent heat wave. Knowing it is challenging to maintain a safe environment for both your employees and residents, I included are several links to heat related articles in this e-news that may be beneficial. Additionally, don't forget to take care of yourself, your elderly family members, and neighbors as well.

The month of July has confirmed once again just how valuable each of you are as nurses and caregivers. I found myself commending the work of the nursing staff during my recent total knee replacement. All of the nurses and technicians (nurse aides) were wonderful. One of the most important aspect each of you provide is understanding, compassion, knowledge in your field, and communication to your residents and their families. My hospital stay was made so much easier because during each step of the way, someone was communicating with me what would be done and what to expect. My sincere appreciation to each of you for your dedication and care provided to your residents.

We are endeavoring to go green with the journal beginning with the September issue. Our journal will now be placed on our website. The cover and table of content will be available to all web viewers. All current members will be sent a link to the entire journal on the website. Once it is on the website, I would like to hear from you regarding your thoughts on our new journal venue.

There is still time to register for the DON certification course being held Tuesday through Friday, October 18-21, 2016 at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA. If you have not had the opportunity to attend this course in the past, I believe you will find it very worthwhile. Both Sophie Campbell and Candace McMullen are to be recognized for their dedication and expert teaching of the course. There is more information available in this e-news and on our website.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and remember if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Chair, Board of Directors / Executive Director PADONA



## Are Your Dementia Care Efforts on Target?

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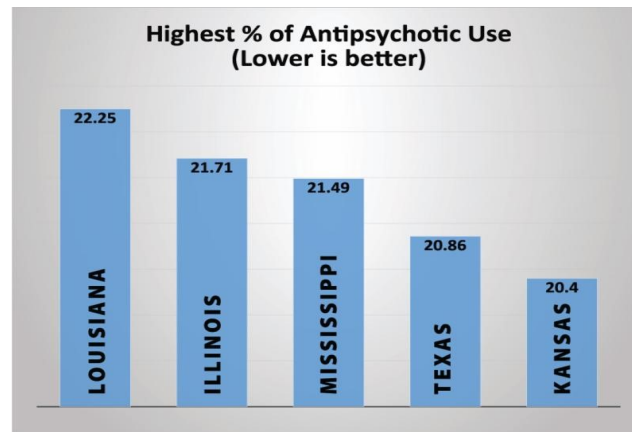
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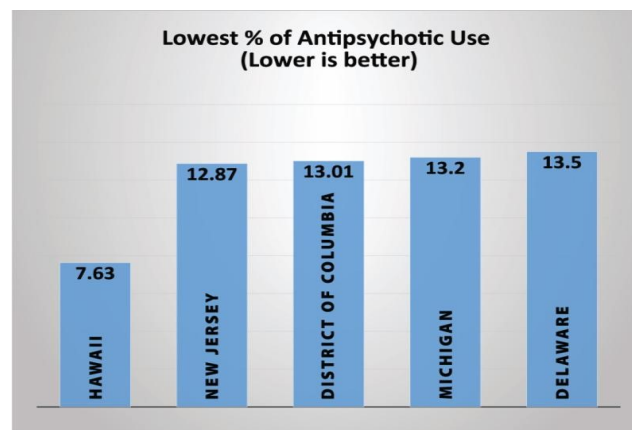
[www.PharmScript.com](http://www.PharmScript.com)

**On June 3, 2016, CMS released its latest update on the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes.** While staff in many nursing facilities have reduced their rate of antipsychotic medication use, CMS reports that others have not been as successful. The official measure used by the National Partnership is the percent of long-stay residents who receive an antipsychotic medication, excluding those with Schizophrenia, Huntington's disease, or Tourette's syndrome. Since the effort began collecting data in 2011, the percent of residents receiving an antipsychotic medication has decreased from 23.9% in 2012 to a third quarter 2015 national average of 17.4%, an overall reduction of 27%. As facilities in additional states reach the target goals, usage will drop even lower.

**The following chart shows the states with the highest prevalence of antipsychotic use in the fourth quarter of 2015**



**The next chart displays the states with the lowest prevalence of antipsychotic use in the same period.**





In addition to monitoring facility reduction efforts, CMS is exploring data it has identified as unintended consequences of antipsychotic reduction efforts, both good and not so good. Prescribing shifts are occurring at a concerning rate. While the use of antipsychotic medications is being reduced, the practice of ordering anxiolytics or sedative/hypnotic drugs has risen notably. This elevates CMS' concerns that prescribers have exchanged one psychoactive class of drugs for another, so that freedom from chemical restraints may not actually be achieved. CMS is also exploring changes in the functional and cognitive status of residents, as reflected in MDS data, to identify the impact of non-pharmacological approaches when providing care for residents who have dementia. CMS also plans to analyze data related to variations they have noted in surveyor enforcement activity, particularly with regard to scope and severity assignment when comparing states.

The CMS report also includes findings from Focused Dementia Care Surveys that were expanded from the original 2014 states of California, Minnesota, New York, Illinois, and Louisiana to include Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas in 2015. In the participating states, surveyors cited F309 Quality of Care for residents with dementia 65% of the time; F329 Unnecessary Drugs 70% of the time; and both F309 and F329 were cited 57% of the time. Medication usage patterns and integration of non-pharmacological interventions were a primary focus of these surveys.

*Achieving compliance with the medication-related F-Tags that are under CMS scrutiny requires a concentrated effort by the health care team.*

*Your pharmacist has the knowledge to contribute expert ideas, provide targeted education, and monitor prescriber ordering practices. If you are not already taking advantage of this valuable resource, ask the pharmacy to provide you with psychotropic usage reports that show which psychotropic medications are used in your facility and the specific residents who receive them. Also ask for a report showing each prescriber's ordering practices so you can identify physicians who may benefit from further discussion on this topic. Your team can use this information to formulate a proactive medication management plan. Including your pharmacist will help you reach your medication management goals as you strive to achieve and sustain compliance.*

For more information on this topic, and to see a complete listing of states' ranking in antipsychotic reduction, visit <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-16-28.pdf>.

## IMPORTANT Heat Updates

- [Hot Weather Safety Tips](#)
- [FAQ About Extreme Heat](#)
- [CDC—Extreme Heat and Your Health](#)





## Welcome New Members!

- Ashley Kaden - H & R Healthcare - Area III
- Sara Smith - Grove City Medical Center, TCC - Area I

## SAVE THE DATE: PADONA's Fall 2016 DON Certification Course

Location: Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey  
4650 Lindle Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Dates: October 18-21, 2016

Registration: Registration fee of \$760.00 (not including sleeping room) includes:

- 4 days of comprehensive programming covering CMS and state regulations, legal aspects of long term care, financial management for nurses, managing RAC audits, the survey process, MDS assessment for DONs, MDS focused survey, eligibility criteria (Medicare and PPS), Quality Assurance Performance Improvement, CMS 5 Star rating system, medical record documentation and PEPPER report overview
- Extensive downloadable course material
- Continental breakfast, breaks and lunch on all dates
- Online certification exam from the American Society for Long Term Care Nurses (ASLTCN) allows you to become certified and utilize the initials "*CNDLTC*" for qualified attendees (have an active RN license, be a member of PADONA or the ASLTCN; have at least 12 months experience in Nursing Administration in long term care, including six months as a DON or ADON)
- 22 contact hours

Click [here](#) to register today.

**2017 Exhibitors: Sign Up for the PADONA 29th Annual Early - Hurry!! Only 15 exhibitor locations left for 2017! Convention in Hershey, PA March 29, 30 and 31, 2017**



## For Members of PADONA - Free Posting of Job Opportunities

Post your company's job openings at PADONA for free for 60 days per job posting. Send the following in a Word document to [info@padona.com](mailto:info@padona.com)

1. Job Title
2. Company name and address
3. Brief summary position
4. Compensation/Benefits (if known)
5. Contact information (mailing address, email address, company email)