

PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE DEMENTIA CARE IN NURSING HOMES

***Questions to Consider in Interdisciplinary Team Review of Individual Dementia Care Cases**

- If the behavioral symptoms represent a change or worsening, was a medical work up performed to rule out underlying medical or physical causes of the behaviors, if appropriate?
- Were current medications considered as potential causes of the behaviors (i.e., those with significant anticholinergic or other side effects)?
- If a medical cause (e.g., UTI) was identified, was treatment (if indicated) initiated in a timely manner?
- If medical causes were ruled out, did the staff attempt to establish the root causes of the behaviors, using a careful and systematic process and individualized knowledge about the resident when possible? Were family caregivers or others who knew the resident prior to his/her dementia consulted about prior life patterns, responses to stress, etc.?
- Was the initial clinical indication for the medication valid?
- Were non-pharmacologic, person-centered interventions tried before medications (other than in an emergency)? Were the results documented?

- Were specific target behaviors identified and desired outcomes related to those behaviors documented? Were caregivers aware of the target behaviors and desired results of the medication?
- Was the resident or appropriate legal representative consulted about the decision to use an antipsychotic medication and was that discussion documented?
- If a drug is continued for more than a few weeks, is the original clinical indication still valid (are the behaviors still present)?
- Is appropriate monitoring in place and is the team aware of the potential side effects?
- If new symptoms or changes in condition occurred after an antipsychotic medication was started, was medication use considered as a potential cause of a change or symptom?
- If on a medication, did the pharmacist perform a medication regimen review and identify related signs and symptoms, or did the staff inform the pharmacist if symptoms occurred after the last pharmacist visit?