



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: AVOIDING MISUSE OF PSYCHOTROPICS FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS



Nursing home residents with dementia and other cognitive disorders are frequently given psychotropic medications, often involuntarily, to control a resident's behavior. This is known as chemical restraint.

THE FEDERAL NURSING HOME REFORM LAW GUARANTEES YOUR RIGHT TO:

- Be free from physical or chemical restraints imposed as discipline or for convenience and not required to treat medical symptoms
- Request, refuse, and discontinue treatment
- Participate in preparing a person-centered plan of care
- Be fully informed in advance of care and treatment to be provided, including the risks and benefits of treatments

FLORIDA LAW REQUIRES:

- The use of chemical restraints to be consistent with a resident's diagnosis
- A resident or their representative to be informed of a facility's chemical restraint policies and procedures during admission

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN MEDICATION IS PRESCRIBED

- Why was this drug ordered?
- Is this medication approved to treat my symptoms or illness?
- What alternative non-medication options are available?
- What are the side effects and risks of this medication?



SIGNS OF IMPROPER PSYCHOTROPIC USE

- A significant change in behavior
- Agitation and anger
- Screaming, swearing
- Hitting and pacing
- Confusion, paranoia, delusions
- Continuous wandering
- Lethargy, decreased appetite, insomnia

Improper Use of Psychotropic Drugs Can Cause Serious Medical Complications:

- Over-sedation
- Confusion
- Respiratory infections
- Falls
- Strokes
- Death

PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS COMMONLY USED AS CHEMICAL RESTRAINTS

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| • Risperdal (Risperdone) | • Abilify (Aripiprazole) | • Navane (Thithixene) | • Depakote (Divalproex Sodium) |
| • Zyprexa (Olanzapine) | • Invega (Paliperidone, Paliperdone Palmitate) | • Orap (Pimozide) | • Ativan (Lorazepam) |
| • Seroquel (Quetiapine Fumarate) | • Haldol (Haloperidol) | • Symbyax (Fluoxetine Hydrochloride, Olanzapine) | • Paxil (Paroxetine) |
| • Geodon (Ziprasidone Hydrochloride or Mesylate) | • Moban (Molindone Hydrochloride) | • Clozaril (Clozapine) | • Nuedexta (Dextromethorphan-Quinidine) |
| | | • Fazacllo (Clozapine) | |

PLEASE **CONTACT FLORIDA HEALTH JUSTICE PROJECT**
IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS WITH IMPROPER USE OF MEDICATION



<https://www.floridahealthjustice.org>