



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

NATIONAL AGED CARE MANDATORY  
QUALITY INDICATOR PROGRAM

# Medication management



# Make it count

**Continuous improvement is about seeking and applying opportunities to enhance the quality of care and outcomes for care recipients.**

Take 60 seconds to understand how to measure and report on medication management and help your service enhance the quality of care and outcomes for your care recipients.



Click the arrow  
to continue

# Contents

**Click on a box** to view that section or move through all the sections using the next and previous buttons at the bottom of the page.

# Why measurement matters

Older Australians are often prescribed several medications to manage comorbidities and extend life. However, there is evidence that polypharmacy — prescription of nine or more medications — is increasing amongst older Australians

Regular monitoring of **polypharmacy** is important because polypharmacy has been associated with reduced quality of life and harms such as adverse drug events, cognitive decline, and hospitalisation.





## Why measurement matters

**Antipsychotics** are medications prescribed for the treatment of a diagnosed condition of psychosis. However, antipsychotics are often prescribed to older Australians to manage the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.

Regular monitoring of the use of **antipsychotics** is important because the inappropriate use of certain medications, including antipsychotics, has been shown to be associated with poor health outcomes.

# Impact of polypharmacy and antipsychotics

Polypharmacy has been associated with reduced quality of life and harms.

The inappropriate use of antipsychotics has been shown to be associated with poor health outcomes.

## Test your knowledge...

**What are some of the adverse effects that can occur as a result of polypharmacy and antipsychotic use?**

TYPE YOUR ANSWER HERE



# How to collect data for polypharmacy and antipsychotics

There are two medication management quality indicators measured and reported on as part of the QI Program.

**Click on the boxes**

to learn more about the data collected and reported on for each of the medication management quality indicators.



# Quality improvement

**Awareness of risk factors and some simple steps can support in reducing the risk of polypharmacy and the inappropriate use of antipsychotic medications.**

The checklist on the right will help assess care recipients who are at risk of polypharmacy or inappropriate use of antipsychotic medications and provide potential support and management strategies.

STEP  
1

Complete regular reviews of residential medication charts

STEP  
2

Document, monitor and escalate instances of polypharmacy or antipsychotic use

STEP  
3

Implement prevention strategies

STEP  
4

Undertake frequent reassessment of residential medication charts

For detailed information on potential prevention and management strategies, and quality improvement activities, please refer to the **QI Program Manual 4.0 – Part B**.



# Ask QIRI

**The Quality Indicator Reporting Instructor (QIRI) answers your questions about medication management.**

**Click on a speech bubble** to learn a top tip from QIRI.



# Quality indicator challenge



**Congratulations!**

**You have completed  
Module Six –  
Medication  
management.**

Test your knowledge in the box on the right then move onto the next module.

## Take the quick quiz!

**True or false:** Lenny and her team have a care recipient who has been prescribed eight medications. This information should be included in the QI Program reporting of data for the medication management quality indicator.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**