



# 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

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| • 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) |
|  |  | • Fazaclor (Clozapine)                           |   |

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



<https://www.floridahealthjustice.org/contact.html>



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