

## MEDICATION SAFETY TIPS

If you find any pills, capsules or other medicines within the facility, take them to the person who administers medications.

Be mindful of residents who take many medications—they have a higher risk for falls, as well as medication interactions and side effects.

### WATCH FOR MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS AND REPORT THEM TO A NURSE:

- Change in cognition (drowsy/attention/cognition state)
- Change in speech
- Change in balance/steadiness
- Appetite change
- Noticeable weight change
- Significant bowel changes
- Significant skin change (rash/color)

### ALERT NURSING STAFF OF ANY RESIDENT SYMPTOMS OR COMPLAINTS, INCLUDING:

- Pain
- Depression
- Sleep pattern changes
- Medication administration or timing

**Encourage and assist with vaccinating residents—especially for COVID-19, the flu and pneumonia.**

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## STOP AND WATCH

A change in a resident's condition may mean they are at risk. The earlier changes are noticed and reported, the better. Changes that are not reported can lead to serious outcomes, including adverse drug events, transfer to a hospital, or even death. Make sure these changes are reported as soon as they are noticed.

**S** Seems different than usual  
**T** Talks or communicates less than usual  
**O** Overall, needs more help than usual  
**P** Participates in activities less than usual

**A** Ate less than usual  
**N** No bowel movements in 3 days; or diarrhea  
**D** Drank less than usual

**W** Weight change  
**A** Agitated or nervous more than usual  
**T** Tired, weak, confused, or drowsy  
**C** Change in skin color or condition  
**H** Help with walking, transferring, toileting more than usual



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