

GLOSSARY

Abuse – the infliction of physical, sexual, verbal, mental, or emotional injury or harm. Example: Forcing a resident to take medications.

Addiction – emotional or physiological dependence upon a drug which has progressed beyond voluntary control.

Adverse drug affect – a harmful, unintended reaction to a drug administered at normal dosage.

Allergic reactions:

1. Hypersensitivity – unusual sensitivity to a drug such as mild skin rash, swelling, itching, and nasal congestion.
2. Anaphylaxis – severe, life threatening hypersensitivity to a drug such as extreme weakness, nausea and vomiting, cyanosis, dyspnea, hypotension, shock, and respiratory or cardiac arrest. Usually occurs within minutes of administering the drug.

Antagonism – condition in which two drugs work against each other, decreasing effectiveness of one or both (e.g., tetracycline and antacid).

Antidote – a drug given to reverse the effects of a previously given drug.

Assault – threat or attempt to injure another in an unlawful manner. Example: Telling a resident; “If you don’t be quiet, I’ll tie your hands down.”

Aural – pertaining to the ear.

Battery – unlawful application of force to the person of another. Example: Carrying out a threat.

Breach – breaking of a law, or of any obligation or contract.

Cells – the basic unit of all living things.

Certified Medication Technician – shall mean a nursing assistant who has completed a course in medication administration approved by the Department of Health & Senior Services.

Chemical restraint – shall mean any medication that is used for discipline or convenience and not required to treat medical symptoms. For the purposes of this definition, discipline means any action taken by the facility for the purpose of punishing or penalizing residents and convenience means any action taken by the facility to control a resident’s behavior or maintain a resident with a lesser amount of effort by the facility and not in the resident’s best interest.

Conduct – one’s action in general; behavior.

Consent – permission granted voluntarily by a person in his/her (sound/clear) mind.

Contraindications – existing conditions that the resident may have which are incompatible with the drug (e.g., Inderal given to asthmatic resident).

Control of medication – shall mean assuming responsibility by the facility for all facets of control of medication including, but not limited to, acquisition, storage, security and administration.

Controlled drugs/controlled substances – drugs covered by the Federal and State Controlled Substance Acts (e.g., codeine).

Cumulative effect – buildup of a drug in the body that may occur rapidly or slowly over time.

Custom – long-established practice; an accepted behavior.

Disease – pathological or abnormal condition of the body.

Dosage – amount of a medication given at one time.

Drug – a substance taken into or applied to the body to treat or prevent a disease or condition (e.g., Advil).

Duty of care – the obligation under law for a health care worker to perform services for a resident that meet the common standards of practice expected in his or her community for a comparable worker.

Enteric coated – tablets that are coated so that they dissolve in the small intestines rather than in the stomach.

Ethics – the discipline dealing with that which is good and bad and that which is moral duty and obligation.

False imprisonment – unjustified detention of a person. Example: Preventing a competent resident from leaving a facility

Generic name – the common name assigned to a drug; the generic name stays the same from one manufacturer to another; whereas, the trade or brand name changes with each manufacturer. Example: ibuprofen (generic name) for Advil or Motrin (trade/brand names).

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) – a law that protects people who have preexisting medical conditions or might suffer discrimination in health coverage based on something that relates to an individual's health and mandates privacy of health information.

Ideal – a standard of perfection or excellence.

Idiosyncrasy – an individual's unique hypersensitivity to a particular drug.

Indications – various conditions or symptoms for which the drug may be given.

Invasion of privacy – a civil wrong that unlawfully makes public knowledge of any private or personal information without the consent of the wronged person.

Lethal dose – amount of a drug that will cause death.

Libel – a false and malicious publication in writing about an individual or group to a third party.

Malpractice – improper or negligent treatment of a resident or patient resulting in damage or injury. Example: The CMT gives medications to the wrong resident and does not report the error to the nurse.

Neglect – failure of person(s) responsible for an individual to provide necessary services to maintain the physical and mental health of the individual, when such failure presents an imminent or probable danger or death to the individual. Example: walking away from a resident's bedside without putting the side rails up when side rail use is ordered by the physician and is included in the plan of care.

Negligence – failure to perform in a reasonably prudent manner or by acceptable health care practices. Example: Not giving medications to a resident as ordered by the physician.

Ophthalmic – pertaining to the eye.

Organs – a group of tissues that perform a single function.

Overdose – a dose of a drug in an amount that causes an acute reaction such as coma or even death.

Otic – pertaining to the ear.

Parenteral – a medication route other than the digestive system such as intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, or mucosal.

Physical dependence – a physical state in which the body adapts to a drug and experiences symptoms of withdrawal when the drug is abruptly stopped or the dose is rapidly lowered. Physical dependence is a normal result of the use of certain drugs and rarely leads to addiction.

Placebo – an inactive substance prescribed by a doctor as if it were an effective dose of medication and believed by the resident to be a medication.

Premises – shall mean any structure or structures that are in close proximity one to the other and which are located on a single piece of property.

Privileged communication – any personal or private information, which is relevant to a resident's care, which the resident gave to medical personnel.

Psychological dependence – a compulsion to use a drug, often for its mood altering effects, preoccupation with obtaining and using a drug. May lead to addiction.

Self administration of medication – shall mean the act of actually taking or applying medication to oneself.

Self control of medication – shall mean assuming immediate responsibility by a resident for the storage and administration of medication for oneself while the facility retains ultimate control of medication.

Side effects – any effect of a drug other than the one for which it is given.

Slander – to make any oral defamatory false remark about another; spoken words that tend to damage the reputation of another.

Spansule – small particles of a drug coated with compounds which require varying amounts of time to dissolve.

Subcutaneous – injected into the tissues just below the skin, dermis.

Sublingual – under the tongue, without liquid.

Synergism – two drugs working together to give an effect greater than their individual effect (e.g., analgesics with antianxiety drugs).

Systems – a group of organs working together with a specific function.

Therapeutic effect – the desired effect of a drug.

Tissues – groups of similar cells combine to form tissues.

Tolerance – a condition in which the body becomes increasingly resistant to a drug due to continued exposure; and requiring an increased amount of a drug to produce the same effect a lesser amount previously produced.

Toxicity – symptoms or effect of poisoning of the body by a drug due to large dose of a drug or a cumulative effect of the drug.

Trade or brand name – name by which a drug is marketed; commonly recognized name of a drug.

Unethical – not ethical; not representative of ideal behavior.

Value system – behavior related to a pattern of conduct or ideas that are accepted as worthwhile or meaningful.