

**§418.54(c)(6) Drug profile.** A review of all of the patient's prescription and over-the-counter drugs, herbal remedies and other alternative treatments that could affect drug therapy. This includes, but is not limited to, identification of the following:

- i. Effectiveness of drug therapy**
- ii. Drug side effects**
- iii. Actual or potential drug interactions**
- iv. Duplicate drug therapy**
- v. Drug therapy currently associated with laboratory monitoring.**

**Interpretive Guidelines §418.54(c)(6)**

In reviewing the patient's prescribed and over-the-counter medications and any additional substance that could affect drug therapy, the hospice must consider drug effectiveness, side effects, interactions of drugs, duplicate drugs and drugs associated with laboratory testing which could affect the patient. In addition, the hospice should consider both the use of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions to promote the patient's comfort level and sense of well-being based on the assessment of patient needs and desires.

**“Medication Interaction”** is the impact of another substance (such as another medication, nutritional supplement (including herbal products), food, or substances used in diagnostic studies) upon a medication's action. The interactions may alter absorption, distribution, metabolism, or elimination. These interactions may decrease the effectiveness of the medication or increase the potential for adverse consequences.

**“Duplicate therapy”** refers to multiple medications of the same pharmacological class/category or any medication therapy that substantially duplicates a particular effect of another medication that the individual is taking.

**“Non-pharmacological interventions”** refers to approaches to care that do not involve medications, generally directed towards stabilizing or improving a person's mental, physical or psychosocial well being.

---