

(Rev. 135, Issued: 02-27-15, Effective: 04-27-15, Implementation: 04-27-15)

§483.420(a)(6) Ensure that clients are free from unnecessary drugs and physical restraints and are provided active treatment to reduce dependency on drugs and physical restraints;

Guidance §483.420(a)(6)

The facility must implement an aggressive active treatment program, which includes appropriate replacement behaviors, to address the reduction/elimination of physical restraints and drugs to manage behaviors.

For purposes of this Guideline drugs to manage behavior are “unnecessary” if there is evidence the drugs are being used:

- In excessive dose (duplicate therapy);
- For excessive duration;
- Not monitored adequately;
- Without adequate indications for its use;
- With adverse consequences which indicate the dose should be reduced or discontinued;
or
- Any combination of the reasons listed above.

The long term use of a drug/physical restraint to manage behavior combined with one or more of the following may indicate unnecessary use:

- The client's developmental and/or behavioral needs are not being met and the appropriateness of less restrictive approaches to manage inappropriate behaviors should be questioned;
- Staff behavior may be prompting behaviors in clients which result in the chronic use of physical restraints and drugs to control behavior;
- Staff may have inadequate training and/or experience to provide active treatment and employ preventive measures;

Restraints applied for behaviors when less restrictive measures have not been tried or have been tried and found to be just as effective.