Nursing Home Resource Guide for Adverse Drug Events

The Impact of Adverse Drug Events

Overview

The purpose of this resource guide is to assist nursing facilities in recognizing and reducing adverse drug events. This guide will work best if taken to facility leadership and QAPI steering committee meetings to review and discuss how your team will implement change and lead to action. This document offers step-by-step guidance on how to identify errors, create and execute a plan, and measure progress towards a goal.

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The Impact of Adverse Drug Events

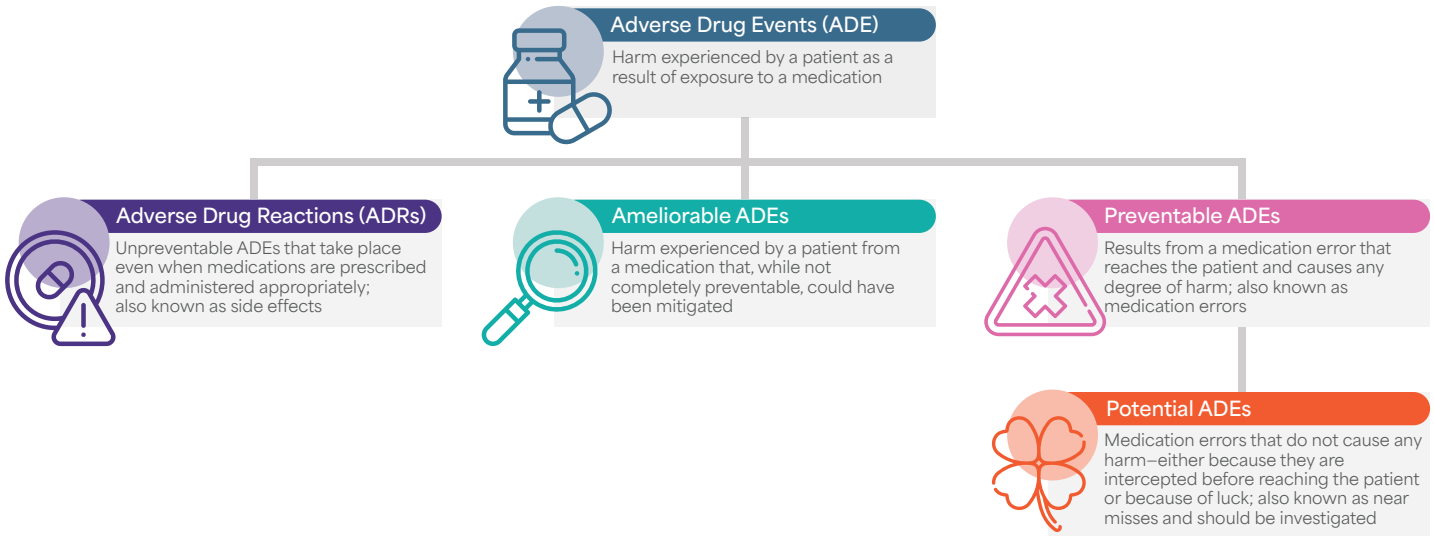
Adverse drug events (ADEs) constitute a major drain on the healthcare system in general, and these events affect nursing facilities as much as any other healthcare setting.

- One in three skilled nursing facility (SNF) beneficiaries were harmed by an adverse event or temporary harm event within the first 35 days of their skilled stay.
- ADEs represent the most clinically significant and costly medication-related problems in nursing homes and are associated with 93,000 deaths a year and as much as $4 billion of excess healthcare expenditures.

From the statistics, it becomes obvious that ADEs are something that all long-term care leaders should be aware of and actively work to reduce and eliminate.

What are Adverse Drug Events?

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), an adverse drug event (ADE) is "harm experienced by a patient as a result of exposure to a medication." The presence of an ADE does not necessarily indicate medical error on the part of providers; events such as an unforeseeable allergic reaction are also ADEs. Adverse drug events are simply something bad happening to a patient because of a medication. These events can be classified further to assist in understanding them, and the chart below shows the relationship between various terms utilized to describe ADEs.



Besides one's duty as a healthcare provider to continuously improve the care of residents, long-term care facilities have legal requirements and responsibilities that pertain to ADEs as well. For an example from federal regulations:

- 42 CFR 483.75(e)(2): Performance improvement activities must track medical errors and adverse resident events, analyze their causes and implement preventive actions and mechanisms that include feedback and learning throughout the facility.

Tools and Resources

Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)

Long-term care facilities are expected to recognize adverse events. Then they must do something about the event. Use the tools below to support the QAPI process for sustainable mitigation plans.

- Quality Improvement Process Steps and Tools | Telligen QI Connect™
- Telligen's Quality Improvement Workbook | Telligen QI Connect™

ADE Recognition

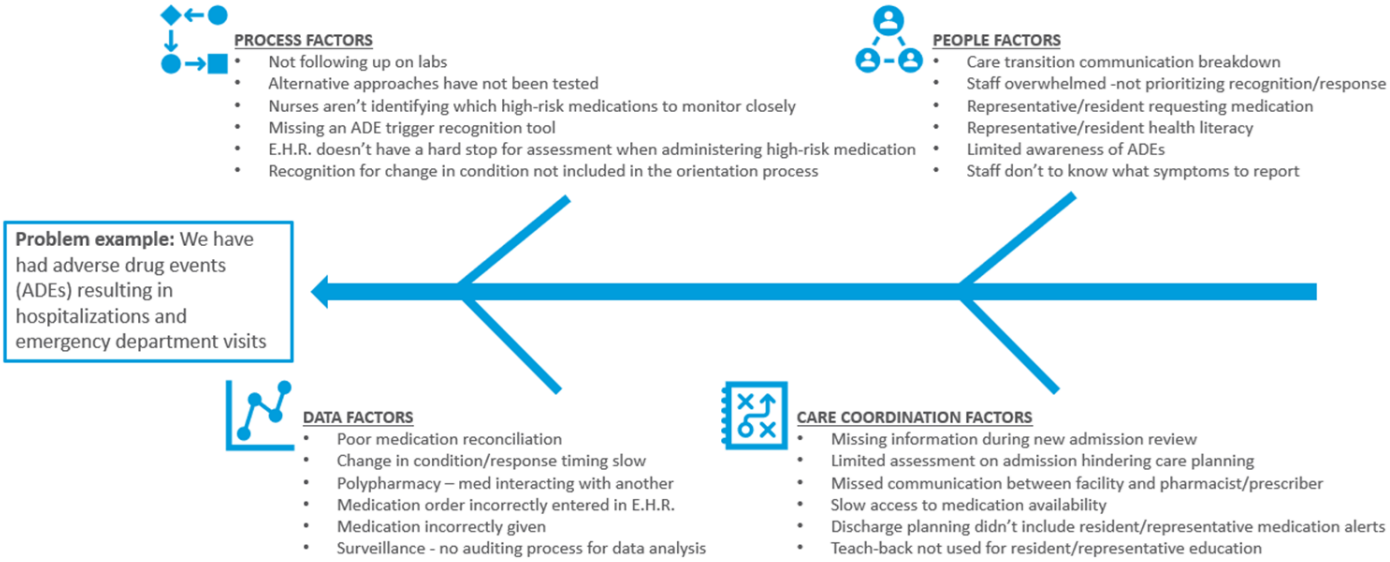
Recognizing ADEs can be a challenge in some situations. Use the following tools to support adverse drug event recognition:

- Skilled Nursing Facility Trigger Tool for Measuring Adverse Events | Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)
- Adverse Drug Event Trigger Tool | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Telligen's Anticoagulant Safety Review Tool | Telligen QI Connect™

Root Cause Analysis (RCA)

In the quality improvement process, a critical step is understanding why an adverse drug event occurred. Completing an RCA will help you target your mitigation plan to the specific underlying cause. Below is an example of a root cause analysis for an adverse drug event.

- Fishbone Diagram: Select Determinants of Preventable Adverse Drug Events | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP)
- On-Demand Learning Modules I Telligen QI Connect™
- Telligen's Root Cause Analysis Tools | Telligen QI Connect™



Medication Management Programs

Use the following resources to support your medication management program.

- National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention | HHS ODPHP
- Drug-related falls in order patients: implicated drugs, consequences, and possible prevention strategies | Therapeutic Advances in Drug Safety

Anticoagulants

- Quality Prescribing Guidelines: Oral Anticoagulants | AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention – Section 5: Anticoagulants | HHS ODPHP
- Blood Thinner Pills: Your Guide to Using Them Safely | AHRQ
- Anticoagulation Vulnerability – Veterans Health Administration (VHA) National Center for Patient Safety | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Antidiabetic Agents

- Quality Prescribing Guidelines: Diabetes Treatment | AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- Sliding Scale Insulin for Diabetes Care | Choosing Wisely®, AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention – Section 6: Diabetes Agents | HHS ODPHP

Opioids

- Quality Prescribing Guidelines: Opioid Analgesics | AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- Opioids in Nursing Homes | AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- Fast Facts: Nondrug Pain & Symptom Management | GeriatricPain.org - The University of Iowa
- Principles of Pain Management | GeriatricPain.org - The University of Iowa
- Education for Clinicians | GeriatricPain.org - The University of Iowa
- Pain Management Information | GeriatricPain.org - The University of Iowa
- The Care of Residents with Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorders in Long-Term Care Settings | Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Morphine Equivalent Dose (MME) Calculator | MDApp