



Public summary

February 2016

The NPDUIS Database contains prescription claims-level data collected from publicly financed drug benefit programs in Canada.

CCRS includes detailed clinical, functional and service information that identifies residents' preferences, needs and strengths, and provides a snapshot of the services they use in LTC.

This analysis combined the drug claims data in the NPDUIS Database with the resident assessment data in CCRS.

Additional resources

The following companion products are available on [CIHI's website](#):

- Report
- Media release

Talk to us

For data-specific information:
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Drug Trends in LTC

Use of Antipsychotics Among Seniors Living in Long-Term Care Facilities, 2014

In this report, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) takes a look at the overall use of antipsychotics in long-term care (LTC) facilities, including cases where these drugs may be appropriate. This is the first analysis to use data from the National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) Database and the Continuing Care Reporting System (CCRS) to analyze drug trends among seniors living in LTC.

The report found that 39% of seniors in LTC facilities were prescribed an antipsychotic at least once in 2014. Antipsychotics are often prescribed to seniors to treat symptoms of dementia and other psychoses, but they can have harmful side effects.

Key findings

- Antipsychotic use was higher among residents with severe cognitive impairment (36.5%) and aggression (51%).
 - Our numbers suggest that even in the most severe cases of aggression, where residents or caregivers may be at risk of harm, non-drug treatment options are being considered.
- Male residents were more likely to be prescribed an antipsychotic than female residents (42.5% versus 37.5%).
- Younger seniors were more likely to be given an antipsychotic than older ones.
 - Almost half of seniors age 65 to 74 had a claim for at least 1 antipsychotic, compared with one-third of seniors age 85 and older.
- Although this study looks at the overall use of antipsychotics in LTC, another CIHI study estimated the rate of potentially inappropriate antipsychotic use among LTC residents to be roughly 30%. More information can be found in the [Your Health System: In Depth web tool](#).