

## Glossary of Terms

**Alzheimer's Disease** - Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, a general term for memory loss and other cognitive abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 60-80% of dementia cases.<sup>i</sup>

**Antiepileptic** - A type of drug that is used to prevent or treat seizures or convulsions by controlling abnormal electrical activity in the brain. Antiepileptics are used to treat epilepsy and other seizure disorders. They are also used to treat medical conditions, such as bipolar disorder, nerve pain, migraine headaches, fibromyalgia, and restless leg syndrome. There are many different types of antiepileptics. Also called anti-seizure medication and anticonvulsant.<sup>ii</sup>

**Antipsychotic** - A type of drug used to treat symptoms of psychosis. These include severe agitation, hallucinations (sights, sounds, smells, tastes, or touches that a person believes to be real but are not real), delusions (false beliefs), and dementia (loss of the ability to think, remember, learn, make decisions, and solve problems). Most antipsychotics block the action of certain chemicals in the nervous system. Also called antipsychotic agent and neuroleptic agent.<sup>iii</sup>

**Boxed Warning** - Boxed warnings (formerly known as Black Box Warnings) are the highest safety-related warning that medications can have assigned by the Food and Drug Administration. These warnings are intended to bring the consumer's attention to the major risks of the drug. Medications can have a boxed warning added, taken away, or updated throughout their tenure on the market.<sup>iv</sup>

**Comorbidities** - Comorbidity occurs when a person has more than one disease or condition at the same time. Conditions described as comorbidities are often chronic or long-term conditions. Other names to describe comorbid conditions are coexisting or co-occurring conditions and sometimes "multimorbidity" or "multiple chronic conditions."<sup>v</sup>

**Consultant/Senior Care Pharmacist** - A pharmacist offers information about prescriptions, reviews patients' drugs, teaches caregivers and gives out medications.<sup>vi</sup>

**Cumulative Days in Facility (CDIF)** - The total number of days within an episode during which the resident was in the facility.<sup>vii</sup>

**Dementia** - Dementia is not a specific disease. It's an overall term that describes a wide range of symptoms associated

with a decline in memory or other thinking skills severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia.<sup>viii</sup>

**Five-Star Quality Rating System** - CMS created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families, and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily and to help identify areas about which you may want to ask questions. The Nursing Home [Care Compare](#) web site features a quality rating system that gives each nursing home a rating of between 1 and 5 stars. Nursing homes with 5 stars are considered to have a much above average quality and nursing homes with 1 star are considered to have quality of much below average. There is an overall 5-star rating for each nursing home, and separate ratings for health inspections, staffing and quality measures.<sup>ix</sup>

**Gradual Dose Reduction (GDR)** - GDR is the stepwise tapering of a dose to determine if symptoms, conditions, or risks can be managed by a lower dose or if the dose or medication can be discontinued.<sup>x</sup>

**Long-term care – An episode with CDIF greater than or equal to 101 days** that provides a variety of services that help people with health or personal needs and activities of daily living over a period of time. Long-term care can be provided at home, in the community, or in various types of facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Most long-term care is custodial care.<sup>xi,xii</sup>

**Long-term care facility** - A long-term care facility is a nursing home or assisted living center designed for disabled adults.<sup>xiii</sup>

**Minimum data set (MDS)** - MDS summarizes information on the abilities of people who live in long-term care facilities. To keep their Medicare and Medicaid certification, long-term care facilities must submit their MDS data regularly.<sup>xiv</sup>

**Nursing homes (also called skilled nursing facility, long-term care facility or custodial care)** - Nursing homes provide around-the-clock care and long-term medical treatment. Most nursing homes have services and staff to address issues such as nutrition, care planning, recreation, spirituality, and medical care.<sup>xv</sup>

A residence that provides a room, meals, and help with activities of daily living and recreation. Generally, nursing home residents have physical or mental problems that keep

them from living on their own. They usually require daily assistance.<sup>xvi</sup>

**Off-label** - Off-label prescribing occurs when a physician orders an U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drug to treat a condition for which the drug has not been formally reviewed and approved. This practice is legal and common. In fact, one in five prescriptions written today are for off-label use.<sup>xvii</sup>

**Psychotropic medications** - A drug that affects how the brain works and causes changes in mood, awareness, thoughts, feelings, or behavior. Major classes of psychotropic medications include antidepressants, anxiolytics (anxiety

management), antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, and stimulants.<sup>xviii</sup>

**Short-Term Care – An episode with CDIF less than or equal to 100 days** that often serves as a transitional medical rehabilitation period from hospital to home.<sup>xix</sup>

**Skilled nursing facility (SNF)** - A facility (which meets specific regulatory certification requirements) which primarily provides inpatient skilled nursing care and related services to patients who require medical, nursing, or rehabilitative services but does not provide the level of care or treatment available in a hospital.<sup>xx</sup>

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/care-options/glossary>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/antiepileptic>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/antipsychotic>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK538521/>

<sup>v</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/data\\_statistics/comorbidities.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/data_statistics/comorbidities.htm)

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/care-options/glossary>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/MDS-30-QM-Users-Manual-V70.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/care-options/glossary>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/certificationandcompliance/fsqrs>

<sup>x</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-16-15.pdf>

<sup>xi</sup> [https://www.cms.gov/glossary?term=&items\\_per\\_page=10&viewmode=grid&page=53](https://www.cms.gov/glossary?term=&items_per_page=10&viewmode=grid&page=53)

<sup>xii</sup> <https://www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/medicare-covered-services/skilled-nursing-facility-snf-services/snf-care-past-100-days>

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/care-options/glossary>

<sup>xiv</sup> <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/care-options/glossary>

<sup>xv</sup> <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/care-options/glossary>

<sup>xvi</sup> [https://www.cms.gov/glossary?term=&items\\_per\\_page=10&viewmode=grid&page=68](https://www.cms.gov/glossary?term=&items_per_page=10&viewmode=grid&page=68)

<sup>xvii</sup> <https://www.ahrq.gov/patients-consumers/patient-involvement/off-label-drug-usage.html>

<sup>xviii</sup> <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/what-are-psychotropic-medications>

<sup>xix</sup> <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/inpatient-rehabilitation-care>

<sup>xx</sup> [https://www.cms.gov/glossary?term=skilled+nursing+facility&items\\_per\\_page=10&viewmode=grid](https://www.cms.gov/glossary?term=skilled+nursing+facility&items_per_page=10&viewmode=grid)