1. Discuss the impact that the reporting of all drug irregularities to the Medical Director has had on medication safety.
2. List which medications surveyors have identified, through deficiency data, as meeting the regulatory definition of a psychotropic drug.
3. Explain how limits on PRN orders for psychotropic drugs have impacted resident care.
4. Describe trends and patterns regarding antibiotic stewardship which have resulted in deficiency citations.

**Self-assessment Questions (True/False):**
1. CMS regulations require the Medical Director to respond in writing to all drug irregularities identified by the consultant pharmacists.
2. Deficiency data confirms that surveyors consider Sinemet a psychotropic drug.
3. CMS regulations which limit the duration of PRN orders for psychotropic drugs have resulted in increased hospitalizations.
4. Facilities which do not follow their own antibiotic stewardship protocols are at risk for deficiency citations.

**Answers:**
1. False
2. False
3. False
4. True

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Jennifer Hardesty, PharmD, FASCP is a clinical pharmacist with special interests in geriatric drug therapy and medication management. She received her PharmD from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, and completed a Geriatrics Residency at the Lamy Center for Drug Therapy and Aging. Dr. Hardesty has since served as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Lamy Center on Drugs and Aging, as a LTC Consultant Pharmacist and as a Geriatrics Clinical Advisor for Caremark/CVS. She has worked for Remedi SeniorCare for the past 10 years in various clinical leadership roles, and currently serves as Remedi SeniorCare’s Chief Clinical Officer.
In 2013 Bill Vaughan joined Remedi SeniorCare after a 26 year career with Maryland’s state survey agency. Bill was a CMS certified health facility surveyor who evaluated the care delivered in Maryland’s nursing homes and assisted living facilities for 14 years. In 2001 he became Chief Nurse of Maryland’s Office of Health Care Quality and was responsible for the clinical oversight of the agency’s approximately 120 surveyors. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1982, Bill gained clinical experience at The Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland Hospitals. He has taught pharmacy and nursing students at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, the University of Maryland School of Nursing and Towson University. Bill speaks nationally on the regulation of healthcare facilities and was on CMS expert panels which developed guidance to surveyors on pain management and end of life care. He is currently a member of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices’ Clinical Advisory Board for their LTC newsletter.