

# Improving care for people with dementia

National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit



Working in partnership with



# National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit

## Improving care for you

Approximately 750,000 people in the UK live with dementia and the NHS aims to provide them with the best dementia care possible. The National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit plays an important part in this.

It is estimated that around 25 per cent of people with dementia (180,000 people) are currently being prescribed antipsychotic medication designed to treat conditions such as schizophrenia. For around 36,000 people with dementia, antipsychotic drugs are the right treatment option but they are often prescribed inappropriately to people with dementia.

## What is the National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit?

The use of antipsychotic medication can lead to serious side effects for people with dementia. The Government has made a commitment to reduce the inappropriate prescribing of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia. The National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit collects information from GP practices on the prescribing of antipsychotic drugs for people with dementia.

## Who runs the National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit?

The National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit is run by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. We have been asked to carry out this audit by the Department of Health. As a national NHS body, we provide information to the NHS so they can provide the best possible services.

## How will the audit make a difference?

The audit aims to gather information from GP practices to establish a national picture of prescribing antipsychotic medication for people with dementia. The audit will:

- provide publicly available information on the current prescribing of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia
- support the government's commitment to reduce the inappropriate prescribing of antipsychotic medication
- help GP practices identify where services can be improved.

## What do we do with the information?

We produce publicly available reports which focus on the care and treatment of patients in England. The reports are available to patients, clinicians, allied health professionals, information management and staff.

## Keeping your information safe

It's really important that we take good care of the audit information. The audit information is securely stored and protected by firewall and intruder detection software that stops anyone getting access who is not part of the audit.

The audit will only use the least amount of information possible related to your dementia and medication. For example, we will use NHS number and patient name to make sure that we have the right information. Once we have used this information all the parts that might be identifiable are destroyed. We will not report anything that might identify you and it will not affect the care that you receive.

The Department of Health says that we should keep the information that we collect for clinical audit for 5 years after the audit finishes. This is so that we can answer any questions that might be asked, even after the audit has finished.

# Improving care for people with dementia

## National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit

### Find out more

If you would like more information on antipsychotic medication for people with dementia please visit the Alzheimer's Society website:

[www.alzheimers.org.uk/antipsychotics](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/antipsychotics)

For further information on the National Dementia and Antipsychotic Prescribing Audit, please see the NHS IC website:

[www.ic.nhs.uk/dementiaaudit](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/dementiaaudit)

### Contact us

**0845 300 6016**

**enquiries@ic.nhs.uk**