Antipsychotic Medication Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)

Definitions:

**CDC:** An adverse drug event (ADE) is when someone is harmed by a medicine.¹

**CMS:** An injury resulting from drug-related medical interventions.²

**Quick Fact About ADEs:**

- It is generally estimated that about half of ADEs are preventable.³

**Common Effects of Antipsychotic ADEs²:**

- **Sedation**
- **Falls or Unsteady Gait**
- **Confusion**
- **Orthostatic Hypotension**
- **Loss of Facial Expressions**
- **Parkinsonism** A neurological disorder resembling Parkinson's disease⁵
- **Destabilized Blood Sugar**
- **Anticholinergic Effects** Examples: dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention, bowel obstruction, dilated pupils, blurred vision, increased heart rate, decreased sweating, confusion, etc.
- **Cardiac Arrhythmias**
- **Tardive Dyskinesia** A neurological disorder characterized by involuntary uncontrollable movements especially of the mouth, tongue, trunk, and limbs⁴

**Occurrences That Could Point to an Antipsychotic ADE²:**

- Transfer to hospital
- Call to physician regarding new onset of relevant signs or symptoms
- New order for restraint
- Addition of a new medication
- Removal of a medication

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¹https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult_adversedrugevents.html
³https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/medication-errors-and-adverse-drug-events
⁴https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tardive%20dyskinesia#medicalDictionary
⁵https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/parkinsonism

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