



Mission/Vision

Therapeutic Environment

Data Driven process

Competent Staff

Smooth Transitions of Care

Families as Partners

Non-Med Approaches

Physician Support

## 8. PHYSICIAN/MEDICAL DIRECTOR ENGAGEMENT

### Why the need for Physician Medical Director Engagement?

The Maine Dementia Care Partnership recognizes the vital part physicians and medical directors play in the ability to reduce and prevent the use of off label antipsychotic drugs. Their engagement and support are critical in minimizing the off-label use of antipsychotic drugs. Creating a collaborative environment with a shared philosophy is the work intended for Care Practice 8.

#### Processes:

Create a regular touch base with physicians using the tools in section 3 & 7 to establish a regular point of communication around off-label antipsychotic drug use

Encourage peer to peer physician education using exemplars within the nursing home community who have had success at minimizing off-label antipsychotic drug use

Identify ways to promote physician buy-in to the "shared philosophy"

#### Indicators:

- Medical Director and physicians are part of the QAPI process and work
- Medical Director and physicians work with staff to find appropriate interventions and life-giving support to residents

#### Resources:

- Introductory Guidance
- [Guidance on Inappropriate Use of Antipsychotics - SAMHSA](#)
- [Approaches to Gradual Dose Reduction in Chronic Off-Label Antipsychotics - Consult Pharmacy, 2015. October; 30\(10\)](#)
- [National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes](#)
- How -to Guide: Multidisciplinary Rounds – Institute for Healthcare Improvement