

**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK FORCE
RECOMMENDATION FORM**

Please include only one recommendation on each form.

This form must be returned via e-mail to Katie.mulford@iowa.gov no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday Nov. 21, 2007

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Each recommendation must fit into one of the following categories. Please check the appropriate box:

Education and training Services and housing
 Funding and reimbursement Wellness and disease management

RECOMMENDATION:

The State of Iowa should do a study of the possibility of creating an incentive package to assist rural communities and nursing facilities with low occupancy to provide alternative services for geropsych or "difficult" residents. This may be done in a pilot project basis.

IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE INCLUDE COMMENTS, JUSTIFICATION, RESOURCES OR OTHER INFORMATION TO HELP THE TASK FORCE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR RECOMMENDATION.

There were a couple of articles that relate to the testimony I gave on behalf of IAHSA. In particular, the issue of what we can do with demented residents who exhibit aggressive behavior.

You will recall Dr. Bender in specific talking about the fact that there are no FDA approve medications to control these aggressive behaviors. Sandra and I spoke to the fact that we are responsible to protecting the residents from these aggressive residents but have no place to send them if we are not able to. There exists essentially only Clarinda State Hospital with a 60 bed unit. This is further complicated by the lack of psychiatrists statewide.

There was a story published recently talking to this point and saying that physicians are prescribing anti-psychotics off label to control these behaviors. Grassley is now asking

the GAO to investigate this. I also notice in Clark Kaufman's story about the "Worst Facilities" that one of the facilities was described in his article as having aggressive residents who got into a fight of some sort and one died of a heart attack.

I am bringing this to your attention, as we believe that this concern is important and certainly deserves a place in the report of the task force.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/90729.php>

Grassley calls for probe into providers' use of antipsychotics

A high-ranking U.S. senator has asked the office of the Inspector General to investigate the possible misuse of antipsychotic medications in nursing homes. Inspector General Daniel Levinson is giving the matter "very careful consideration," according to a spokesman.

About 1 in 5 nursing home residents who are not diagnosed with psychosis are nonetheless being prescribed antipsychotic drugs such as Zyprexa and Seroquel for off-label uses, or to calm dementia residents, according to the Wall Street Journal, citing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid statistics. The drugs are often used to control schizophrenia and bi-polar disease. The newspaper also reported that the practice of antipsychotics' off-label prescribing is coming under heavy scrutiny from "academics, patient advocates and even some in the nursing home industry."

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), the ranking member on the Finance Committee, also has asked the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate the possibility of questionable payments to doctors who prescribe these medicines and how much these drugs cost Medicare and Medicaid.

Sales of antipsychotics in 2006 rose to their highest level ever, reaching \$11.7 billion, up significantly from \$6.6 billion in 2002, according to IMS Health.