August 17, 2015

Q: What is the regulation for psychotropic medication assessments and gradual dose reductions for residents who are receiving hospice care?

A: Although the regulations don’t specifically address hospice care in F329, the same principles would apply. Even if someone is at end of life, you would still want to monitor that the medication(s) they are receiving is necessary and determine if a dose reduction is feasible. If not, then make sure you have clear documentation as to why a reduction is not in the resident’s best interest. Facilities must keep in mind good nursing judgement and best practices no matter what stage of illness a resident is in.