

# 2007 Medication in Assisted Living Symposium

## Highlights from On-line Survey

Just prior to the CEAL Symposium on Medication Management, the National Center for Assisted Living asked member assisted living facilities across the country to respond to a survey on medication management practices as a baseline for discussion at the symposium.

Attached are the results from the survey. As you will see, 1232 people viewed the survey with 547 of them completing the survey.

### Responders

- 547 (1232 viewed)
  - 53% AL administrators/EDs
  - 23% AL nurses
  - 13% AL owners
  - 5% AL regional nurses
  - 5% AL regional corporate director

### Responder's type of AL

- 54% stand alone AL
- 17% AL and IL
- 12% AL part of CCRC
- 9% AL and SNF

### Number of residents in responder's AL

- 23% 40-59 residents
- 22% 20-39 residents
- 16% 60-79 residents
- 12% 80-99 residents

### Highest responder states

- 61 Minnesota
- 44 New Jersey
- 28 Florida
- 25 Iowa
- 23 Massachusetts
- 21 California

What % of your residents receive assistance from staff to administer their medications?

- 54% responded that 80-100% of residents
- 23% responded that 60-79% of residents

Does your state allow medication aides/tech or other unlicensed individuals in AL to administer medications?

- 68% Yes
- 32% No

## Highlights from On-line Survey – cont.

Does your AL require a primary pharmacy?

- 53% Yes
- 47% No

What % of your residents use your ALs primary pharmacy?

- 53% responded that 80-100% use their ALs primary pharmacy
- 28% responded that 60-79% use their ALs primary pharmacy

What type of medication packaging does your ALs primary pharmacy use?

- 48% blister cards (bingo cards)
- 19% pillow pack (multiple meds, same time, same package)
- 18% traditional bottle/vial

Does your AL have a medical director?

- 76% No
- 24% Yes [side note: ALs part of CCRC and SNF = 21% of responders]

Does your AL use a consultant pharmacist?

- 68% Yes
- 32% No

Is a consultant pharmacist required by your state?

- 51% Yes
- 49% No

Who is primarily responsible in your AL for reviewing lab data for residents?

- 44% resident's physician
- 30% AL nurse
- 17% AL LPN/LVN

In the past year, what are the most likely types of medication errors your AL experienced?

- 262 responded medication out of stock or not delivered to AL
- 193 responded medication given at the wrong time
- 147 responded medication given was wrong dose
- 110 responded that the wrong medication sent by pharmacy

What are the most pressing challenges your AL experiences regarding medication management?

- 187 responded difficulty reaching physician/nurse practitioner
- 173 responded timely delivery of medications by pharmacy
- 159 responded appropriately trained staff
- 121 responded adequate numbers of staff