

# CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES FOR NURSING HOME REFORM

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 30, 2012

## **CANHR's Releases New Report: "In a Stupor – What California's Antipsychotic Drug Collaborative Reveals About Illegal Nursing Home Drugging."**

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) has released a new report on the sad state of nursing home drugging in California. The report analyzes the findings of the Department of Public Health's Antipsychotic Drug Collaborative. The Collaborative recently investigated 24 nursing homes and found 147 violations of state rules regarding the use of antipsychotics on residents.

The Department's investigations confirm that misuse of antipsychotics is rampant in California nursing homes and deserves immediate remedial action. The Collaborative found that:

- 63% of the surveyed nursing homes had violated state rules regarding informed consent;
- 71% of the surveyed nursing homes were guilty of unnecessary and excessive drugging; and
- 79% of the surveyed nursing homes had pharmaceutical services that were legally deficient.

Some of the cases included fraudulent consents, the drugging of a resident who told a staff person to "shut the heck up," and consultant pharmacists who failed to identify dangerous contra-indicated drugs. Every reviewed facility received at least one deficiency while several received more than a dozen.

Patricia McGinnis, Executive Director of CANHR calls the Collaborative results "a cry for further state action to stem the crisis of chemical restraints. The misuse of antipsychotic drugs is a leading form of elder abuse in nursing homes and it's time that it stopped."

The report can be read at [http://canhr.org/reports/In\\_a\\_Stupor.pdf](http://canhr.org/reports/In_a_Stupor.pdf)

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