1-104 Anxious – oral medication

TIPS Question:

A number of residents are still receiving Ativan for anxious and disruptive behaviour. Is there a medication that could be suggested with less side effects and better effectiveness?

Response:

Some patients may benefit from Ativan but there are a variety of other options that we usually try.

Sometimes an antidepressant such as Celexa, Zoloft or Trazodone can be helpful. We use Trazodone quite often because it is mildly sedating and is generally well tolerated.

The other commonly used medications are the atypical antipsychotics such as Olanzapine (Zyprexa) and Risperidone or Seroquel.

Of course any of these drugs can have side effects. Each patient should be assessed for his or her potential vulnerability to different drugs.

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.*