1-135 Aricept and LTCF

TIPS Question:

Has there been any discussion / opinion expressed about the use of Aricept for residents in LTC? i.e. increasing their awareness of their environment after they have been placed in LTC?

Response:

Aricept, Exelon, Reminyl all cognitive enhancers have been noted to in some cases effect.

(1) Behaviour
(2) Cognition
(3) Activity
(4) Caregiver burden

One of the documented effects of these drugs is improved attention and it appears to help with apathy.
They can also cause negative effects in some people.

Therefore, in the use of any drug in dementia, it is wise to consider it as a clinical trial weighing benefits to side effects.

Remember: the major side effects MIND - Muscle cramps, insomnia, nausea, diarrhea and potential problems.

Please refer to the Psychotropics in your P.I.E.C.E.S. Resource Guide.

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.*