

Quality Management Monthly News

The Dignity of Risk

- What if you never got to make a mistake?
- What if your money was always kept in an envelope where you couldn't get it?
- What if you were never given a chance to do well at something?
- What if you were always treated like a child?
- What if your only chance to be with people different from you was with your family?
- What if the job you did was not useful?
- What if you never got to make a decision?
- What if the only risky thing you could do was to act out?
- What if you couldn't go outside because the last time you went, it rained?
- What if you took the wrong bus once and now you can't take another one?
- What if you got into trouble and were sent away and you couldn't come back because they always remember your "trouble"?
- What if you had to wear your winter coat when it rained because it was all you had?
- What if you had no privacy?
- What if you could do part of the grocery shopping, but were not allowed to do any because you were not able to do all of the shopping?
- What if you spent three hours of every day just waiting?
- What if you grew old and never knew adulthood?
- What if you never got a chance?

A parents perspective taken from Changing Expectations/Planning for the Future: A Parent Advocacy Manual



December 2009

I would like to extend my special thanks to the members of the Human Rights Committee. May you continue to ask the questions, seek understanding and advocate for those who are unable to advocate for themselves.

Human Rights Committee members:

Delores Ackerman
Gus Weber
Joanne LaForge
Kelly Graham
Robyn White
Deb Rosemier
Tracy Lehman
Cindy Polanowski
Mary Tomak
Reita Soback-Lynch
Julie Miller-Young

Happy Holidays to you all!

~Melissa Vennard

What are extrapyramidal symptoms and Tardive Dyskinesia?

Extrapyramidal symptoms and Tardive Dyskinesia are symptoms of side effects from a group of medications called psychotropics. These medications are commonly used to treat behavior, anxiety, depression and seizure disorders. Because these symptoms occur as a result of the drugs action in certain parts of the brain they manifest themselves as unusual side effects which mimic early Parkinson's disease. This is because Parkinson's disease occurs in the same part of the brain. Because a person shows signs of these side effects does not mean the person is developing Parkinson disease. The following symptoms are those to be watchful for and need to be reported to nursing. You may notice that some of these symptoms may already be permanently seen in individuals who have been on these types of medications for many years. Those symptoms can not be changed but further problems can be prevented. Look for NEW symptoms or for an increase in old ones.

- A lack of expression on the face. (Blankness)
- Muscle spasms especially in the shoulders and arms.
- Rigid or stiff posture and movements
- Drooling, shuffling of the feet
- Tremors of the hands and fingers
- Restlessness (unable to sit still)
- Abnormal facial expressions such as grimacing and twitching or facial tics.
- Abnormal movements of the tongue, lips and jaw. Excessive licking of the lips, jutting in and out of the tongue twitching.

Policy on med consent states: medications that require informed consent before administration include meds that are prescribed with the intent of modifying or controlling behavior, even if prescribed in conjunction with a diagnosed psychiatric disorder or medical condition (e.g. person prescribed Tegretol for seizures and behavior control).

By watching for the side effects listed above, You can prevent problems with these and more severe, life threatening side effects called Tardive Dyskinesia, through early intervention so the Doctor can either reduce or change an individuals medication.

