

TeamTalk Session Guide**Session No. 401****Medication Safety – Resident Appears Over-Sedated**

Session aim	To help staff recognise a clear change in a resident's usual alertness, understand what could happen if concerns are not acted on, and discuss what safe practice looks like.
Suggested session length	12 to 15 minutes
Session structure	Play Part 1 • Pause for discussion • Play Part 2 • Pause for discussion • Play Part 3 • Final discussion and close

Set the scene

This scenario shows a resident who appears more drowsy and less responsive than usual. Staff first notice the change, then see what could happen if it is not acted on, and finally what good practice looks like.

Pause 1 discussion

What could be happening here?

Suggested answers

- A clear change from normal
- Possible illness or medication effect
- The resident may be unwell

What are the risks if nothing is done?

Suggested answers

- Deterioration
- Choking
- Falls
- Delay in getting help

Pause 2 discussion

What risks does this situation present?

Suggested answers

- Choking
- Falls
- Becoming more unwell
- Missing early warning signs

Has anything similar happened in your setting?

Suggested answers

- Staff may recognise early warning signs
- Small changes can be important

Final discussion

What should staff do when they notice a change?

Suggested answers

- Take the change seriously
- Report promptly
- Monitor the resident
- Record observations clearly
- Follow local procedures

Why is it important to act early?

Suggested answers

- Prevents harm
- Allows quicker support
- Small changes can indicate serious issues

Key learning points

- A clear change from normal should always be taken seriously
- Staff often recognise when something is not right
- Ignoring concerns can lead to harm
- Early reporting, monitoring, and recording are essential
- Staff do not need to know the cause before raising a concern

Reflective question

What signs of change in a resident would make you stop and report a concern?

Further support

- NICE: Managing medicines in care homes
- CQC: Medicines management
- NHS: Medicines and falls