

Case Study

Mrs. X is a 76 y.o. Filipino woman who has been living in an assisted living facility (ALF) for 2 years and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's dementia in 2009. She was an insurance executive in charge of a successful business. She always preferred staying at home when she lived alone.

Her children reported that Mrs. X initially presented with behavioral and functional problems in 2006. She had refused to allow caregivers at home. She was started on Aricept 10 mg and was less angry, but still refused home care. She moved to the ALF and was more argumentative and was given Ativan 0.5 twice a day. She was napping two hours in the afternoon, and not sleeping at night and was started on Ambien 5 mg. She was better for a few weeks.

More recently, the facility staff has been complaining to the family that Mrs. X has been hitting and kicking when they attempt to provide care and yelling loudly at people who are not there, which is causing her roommate to become agitated. She becomes particularly agitated when they attempt to bathe her or take her to the dining room for meals or for group activities. She was tried on Seroquel, and she fell several times, was eating less and not talking as much.

The ALF team would like to keep the Seroquel because they worry they will not be able to manage her and ask for help with managing her care particularly for bathing and during meal times. Mrs. X's children are concerned about how much Mrs. X sleeps when they visit.