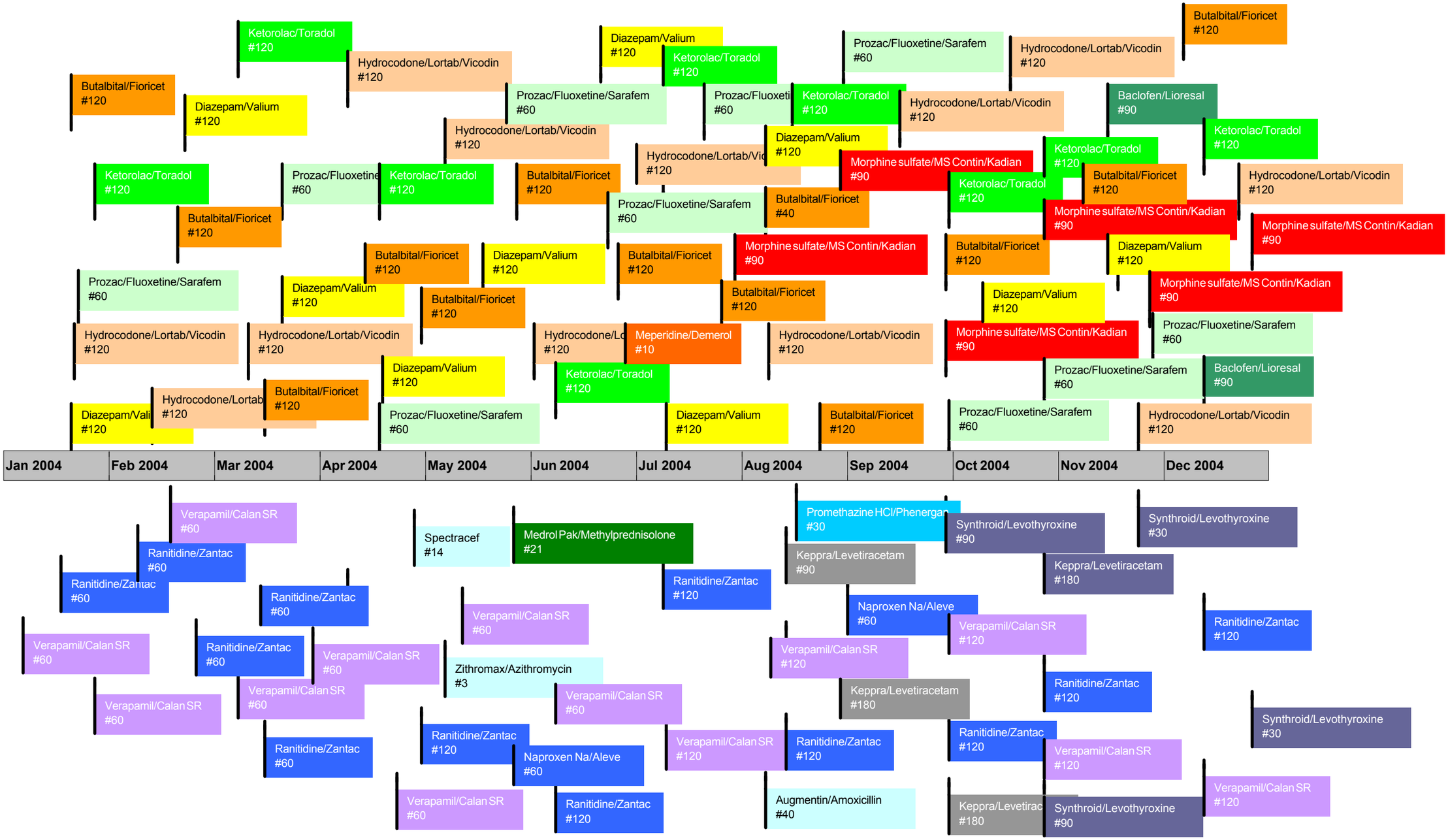
Prescription Drug Use - 2004



Medication over-use found causal in cognitive claim

During review of medical, prescription and pharmacy records in a case involving a claim of cognitive dysfunction, our legal nurse consultant (LNC) identified a probable alternate cause for the claimed symptoms. She found that claimant was obtaining several medications that included narcotics, psychotropic medications and other prescription drugs from different medical providers and using multiple pharmacies. These drugs have known cognitive side effects. She developed a pictorial timeline displaying the various medications obtained by the claimant by color and showing the number of pills dispensed. The timeline was an effective exhibit for negotiating settlement.