

BAD, GOOD, OR POIENII ALLY INAPPROPRIATE WHAT'S INSIDE THE PILLEOX?

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METHESPEAKER

- Director, HbL PharmaConsulting
- Adjunct instructor at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy at University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis
- > Author, "Maybe It's Your Medications" (2023)
- Past president of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (2022)
- Clinical pharmacy residency at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida.
- Doctor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Michigan



CBICITYS

- 1. Define potentially inappropriate medications and the AGS Beers Criteria
- 2. Recognize common potentially inappropriate medications in older adults
- 3. Identify resources that empower caregivers and older adults to engage with their health-care team to avoid potentially inappropriate medications

MICAIONUSEINCIDERALIS

- 41% of older adults take 5 or more medications
 - 3-fold increase since 1988 (13%)
 - 40% use over-the-counter (OTC) products
 - >70% use dietary supplements

- "Polypharmacy"
- Hyperpolypharmacy
- Excessive polypharmacy

"Inappropriate Polypharmacy"

"Medication Overload"

HARMSCFMEICAIICNOMROAD

Estimated 280,000 hospitalizations in 2018 because of adverse drug events

• \$3.8 billion in health-care costs

Cost concerns

• 54% of adults > 50 years old indicated concern about being able to afford their medications (per survey 2024)

Adverse drug events

• Risk increases 7-10% with each added medication

Delirium & cognitive impairment

• Older adults taking 10 drugs are 2.5x more likely to have cognitive impairment compared to those taking <5 drugs

Falls

- Taking 4 or more drugs a ssociated with 18% increased fall risk
- Taking 10 or more...50% increased risk

Morta lity

- Polypharmacy associated with increased risk of death in a "dose-dependent" manner
- 1 to 4 meds: relative risk 1.24; 6 to 9 meds, RR 1.59; > 9 meds, RR 1.96

Lown Institute 2019

U. Michigan Poll on Health Aging May/June 2024

CHARGE WARD

Mr. G is an 87/2.0. male

He questions if his medications are helping him. He recently has incedications with additional pain and sleep medications due to increased pain following a fall (a folding chair he was sitting on collapsed)

Social history: Lives with spouse in senior apartment building (independent living); retired owner of insurance agency; maintains active lifestyle. Two daughters, one lives in town. He and his wife come to the senior center usually 2 days per week.

Height: 5 ft. 7 in.; Weight: 1140

CUENTSCENARIO MEDICATION LIST

CHE TOCHTIC TIPE INC. (25)					
Drug name	Reason patient is	taking it	Orug category (if applicable)		
Diltiazem ER 120 mg once daily	High blood pressu	re	Calcium channel blocker		
Metformin XL1000 mg once daily	Diabetes type 2		Biguanide		
Glipizide XL5 mg once daily	Diabetes type 2		Sulfonylurea		
Xarelto (rivaroxaban) 10 mg once daily	Atrial fibrillation		Anticoa gula nt		
Lexapro (escitalopram) 20 mg once daily	Depression and an	nxiety	SSRI		
Acetaminophen 500 mg, 4 times a day	Pain		OTC pain medicine)		
Gabapentin 600 mg 3 times a day	Pain (nerve relate	d)	Gabapentinoid, antiepileptic drug		
Sonata (zaleplon) 5 mg once daily (bedtime)	Sleep		Non-benzodia zepine hypnotic		
Monte luka st 10 mg once daily	(patient doesn't kr	now)	Leukotriene antagonist		
As needed medications					
Hydrocodone/ a ceta minophen 5/325 mg, every 6h times a day)	Pa in	Opioid pain combination medicine			
Doxylamine, dextromethorphan, pseudoephedrin or 4 times a day)	Cough	OTC cough & cold product			
Blink OTC lubricating eye drops	Dry eyes	Artificial tears			
Tylenol PM (added recently; takes nightly)	"can't sleep"	OTC sleep product			

RSK&BEHFTGFMEICHIONS

- Risks & benefits shift with a ge
- Role of shared decisionmaking regarding drug therapy

How benefits are affected

- Unknown efficacy in oldest old (lack of research)
- Effect of other health conditions
- Patient preferences might change

How risks are affected

- Age-related physiologic changes
- Multiple chronic conditions
- Interactions
- More medications (polypharmacy)

POIENIIALLY INAPPROPRIATE MALICATIONS (PIMS)



Definition: medications for which potential adverse effects may exceed the expected benefits in adults age 65 and older

- Identified by geriatrics experts as higher-risk medications that should be avoided when safer options are available (or used with caution)
- In general, benefits of these medicines are diminished and/or adverse effects are increased

AGS Beers Criteria®: Drug listing of PIMs in the US

- "Explicit Criteria" -- straightforward to interpret
- Includes rationale that explains in what situations criteria apply
- Includes strength of recommendation (strong or weak)

Not a litmus test of good/bad

• Educational tool that indicates where & when caution should be applied

ASBESCRITHAR OFFICEW

First created in 1991 for nursing home residents

Most recent update in 2023; for all settings exce hospice, palliative care

- 36 criteria of drugs to a void (includes drugs & drug classes)
- 9 criteria of drugs to avoid with certain disease states or syndromes

Target audience practicing clinicians and others, such as health care consumers, pharmacy benefits managers, policymakers...

Purpose: reduce adverse drug event & related problems and improve medication selection and use in older adults; serve as a teaching and research tool

TITLE: American Geriatrics Society 2023 updated AGS Beers Criteria® for potentially inappropriate medication use in older adults

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society 2023;71(7):2052-2081

https://agsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jgs.18372

ASBERS PIMUSING

ADDING II				
Table 2 (Contd.)			↓	↓
Organ System, Therapeutic Category, Drug(s)	Rationale	Recommendation	Quality of Evidence	Strength of Recommendation
Pain medications Meperidine	Oral analgesic not effective in dosages commonly used; may have higher risk of neurotoxicity, including delirium, than other opioids; safer alternatives available	Avoid	Moderate	Strong
Non-cyclooxygenase-selective NSAIDs, oral: Aspirin >325 mg/day Diclofenac Diflunisal Etodolac Fenoprofen Ibuprofen Ketoprofen Meclofenamate Mefenamic acid Meloxicam Nabumetone Naproxen Oxaprozin Piroxicam Sulindac Tolmetin	Increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding or peptic ulcer disease in high-risk groups, including those >75 years or taking oral or parenteral corticosteroids, anticoagulants, or antiplatelet agents; use of proton-pump inhibitor or misoprostol reduces but does not eliminate risk. Upper gastrointestinal ulcers, gross bleeding, or perforation caused by NSAIDs occur in ~1% of patients treated for 3-6 months and in ~2%-4% of patients treated for 1 year; these trends continue with longer duration of use. Also can increase blood pressure and induce kidney injury. Risks are dose related.	Avoid chronic use, unless other alternatives are not effective and patient can take gastroprotective agent (proton-pump inhibitor or misoprostol)	Moderate	Strong

TYPES CF DRUG SCONSIDERED PIMS

Blood thinners

• Bleeding risk

Diabetes medications (selected)

• Low blood sugar risk (HYPOglycemia)

Opioid pain medications

- Falls, cognitive impairment, sedation, overdose risk
- Drug interaction concerns

Anticholinergic drugs

• Risk of confusion, dementia, falls, constipation, blurred vision...

Miscellaneous Others

- Fall-risk drugs
- Antipsychotic agents
 - Risk of stroke, death in patients with dementia
- Benzodia zepines/ sedative agents

BERSCHTERA: BOODTHNESS

Drug Category	Examples of drugs	Comments/Reason Why a PIM
Antiplatelet agents	Aspirin	 Do not initiate to prevent a <u>first</u> stroke or heart attack (primary prevention); consider stopping Risk of bleeding.
Anticoa gulants*	Warfarin (Coumadin)	 Avoid starting as initial therapy [for certain uses] unless other options not a vailable; risk of bleeding Reasonable to continue if patient has been stable on it
	Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)	 Avoid for long-term use; risk of bleeding higher in older a dults compared to other options May be reasonable in certain situations
	Dabigatran (Pradaxa)	Use with caution for long-term use (other options have lower bleeding risk in older adults
*when used long-term in patients with a trial fibrillation to prevent a stroke or a blood clot in the leg or lung		

BERSCHIRA: DAEIESMICHS

Drug Category	Examples of drugs	Reason Why a PIM	
Sulfonylureas	Glyburide Glipizide Glimepiride	 Risk of low blood sugar Increased risk of heart disease (compared to other diabetes agents) 	
SGLT-2* inhibitors ("flozin" drugs)	Farxiga® - dapgliflozin Invokana® - canagliflozin Jardiance® - empagliflozin Others	 Use with caution due to risk of genital infections (e.g., yeast infections) & urinary tract infections 	
*sodium-glucose co-transporter 2			

BERSCRIERA: CPICIDPAINEDICUS

When certain diseases/syndromes are present

- History of falls or fracture (a void -- except if severe, a cute pain)
- Delirium ("emerging data" show an association with delirium)

Drug interactions risks:

- Benzodia zepines increa sed risk overdose, a dverse events
 - drugs for sleep or anxiety like lorazepam (Ativan®), alprazolam (Xanax®), diazepam (Valium®)
- Gabapentin (Neurontin), pregabalin (Lyrica) risk of severe sedation-related events, diminished breathing
 - seizure meds used for nerve pain
- In combination with other "CNS-active" drugs (use of 3 or more increases risk of falls, fractures
 - Opioids, antidepressants, antipsychotics, anxiety medicines, muscle relaxants, seizure medicines, sleep medicines

BHSCRIBA: ANIICHUNGCIRUS

These medications work by blocking a chemical in the nervous system called a cetylcholine.

- Acetylcholine has effects throughout the body
- For example, heart, gut, bladder, sweat glands, lungs

Anticholinergic medications act on many parts of the body at the same time

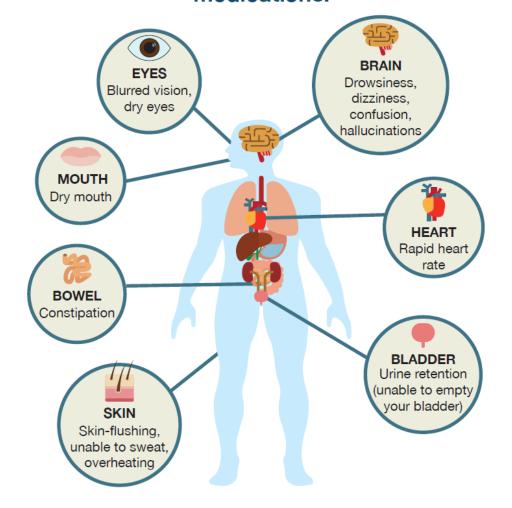
• Therapeutic effects, but also side effects

Dry mouth, dry eyes, blurred vision, constipation, urinary retention

Risk of confusion, cognitive impairment, and possibly dementia in older adults

CUMULATIVE exposure associated with falls, delirium, and dementia

Some common side effects from anticholinergic medications:

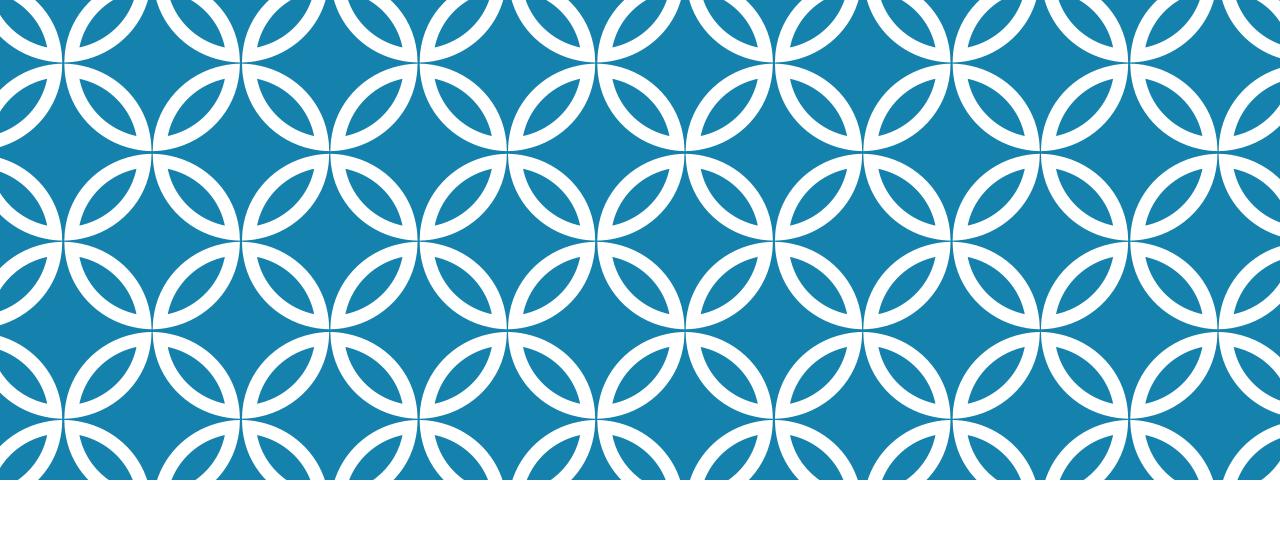


EXAMES OF ANII CHICATIONS

Type of drug/drug class	Examples	
Allergy medications – older antihistamines*	Benadryl® - diphenhydramine; ChlorTrimeton® - chlorpheniramine	
Antidepressants	Paxil® - paroxetine; Elavil® - amitriptyline; Pamelor® - nortriptyline	
Antipsychotics	Zyprexa® - olanzapine; Seroquel® - quetiapine	
Bladder control medications	Detrol® - tolterodine; Ditropan® - oxybutynin	
Sleeping pills	trazodone; *OTC antihistamines like Unisom® - doxylamine; Tylenol® PM – diphenhydramine	
Muscle relaxants	Robaxin® - methocarbamol; Flexeril® - cyclobenzaprine	

BERSCHIRA: MSCHLANGUSOIHRS

Drug Category	Examples of drugs	Reason Why a PIM
Fall risk drugs	Anticholinergic drugs, anti-depressant drugs, antiepileptic drugs, antipsychotic agents, benzodiazepines & nonbenzodiazepine hypnotics, opioid pain medicines	 Gait imbalance, impaired concentration & coordination; additive fall risk in persons with history of a fall.
Antipsychotic agents	Seroquel®, Zyprexa®, Risperdal®, Haldol®, others	 Avoid unless for FDA-approved reasons. Increased risk of stroke, death in patients with dementia Cognitive impairment, stroke risk, falls
Benzodiazepines & Nonbenzodiazepines (Z-drugs)	Alprazolam (Xanax), lorazepam (Ativan), diazepam (Valium), zolpidem (Ambien), zaleplon (Sonata), others	 Physical dependence; risk of cognitive impairment, delirium, falls, fractures, motor vehicle accidents
Drugs needing adjusted with kidney impairment	[too numerous to list]	 Increased risk adverse effects, toxicity Age-related kidney function decline Chronic kidney disease



HOWCAN WEAPPLYTHS INFORMATION TO HEP OR CLIENTS

IMPORIANCE OF THE BEHS CRITICAL

Ability to age in place – maintain independence

Quality of life

Cognitive and physical function

• Drug-induced symptoms or conditions might be reversible

If you see or suspect something...say something.

• Encourage the conversations

BE AMBASSADORS FOR SAFER MEDICATION USE

Be aware of PIMs

• Risk-benefit balance for medications can shift as we get older

Patients/clients need to talk about medications with their health care team

- It's OK to have conversations with health care providers about AGS Beers Criteria
- Ask questions, be informed

Limit exposure to unnecessary and potentially harmful medications

- Explore non-drug treatments with health-care team
- ...And other ways to reduce the number of medications a person takes

BAKTOCRAIENT Mr. G is an 87/2.0. male

He questions if his medications are helping him. He recently has-beelics ting with additional pain and sleep medications due to increased pain following a fall (a folding chair he was sitting on collapsed)

Social history: Lives with spouse in senior apartment building (independent living); retired owner of insurance agency; maintains active lifestyle. Two daughters, one lives in town. He and his wife come the senior center usually 2 days per week.

UPDATE: His wife expresses concern because of recent changes in Mr. G's behavior and cognitive function. He has fallen twice in the past week; he seems more forgetful. A recent blood glucose reading at home was 70 mg/dL

CUENTSCENARIO, MEDICATION LIST

	<u> </u>				
	Drug name	Reason patient is taking it		Drug category (if applicable)	
	Diltia zem ER 120 mg once da ily High blood pressure			Ca lcium cha nnel blocker	
	Metformin XL1000 mg once daily	Diabetes type 2		Biguanide	
-	Glipizide XL5 mg once daily	Diabetes type 2		Sulfonylurea	
→	Xarelto (rivaroxaban) 10 mg once daily	Atrial fibrillation		Anticoa gula nt	
	Lexapro (escitalopram) 20 mg once daily	exapro (escitalopram) 20 mg once daily Depression and an		SSRI	
	Aceta minophen 500 mg, 4 times a day	Pain		OTC pain medicine)	
	Gabapentin 600 mg 3 times a day	Pain (nerve related)		Gabapentinoid, antiepileptic drug	
•	Sonata (zaleplon) 5 mg once daily (bedtime)	Sleep		Non-benzodia zepine hypnotic	
	Montelukast 10 mg once daily	(patient doesn't kn	ow)	Leukotriene antagonist	
	As needed medications	s needed medications			
	Hydrocodone/ a ceta minophen 5/325 mg, every 6h times a day)	as needed (takes 3	Pain	Opioid pain combination medicine	
→	Doxylamine, dextromethorphan, pseudoephedrir or 4 times a day)	ne liquid (takes 3	Cough	OTC cough & cold product	
	Blink OTC lubricating eye drops		Dry eyes	Artificial tears	
-	Tylenol PM (added recently; takes nightly) (diphenhydramine in it)			OTC sleep product	

ASSESSING ASSESS

Medications that could contribute to fall risk?

Medications that could contribute to cognitive changes?

Medication that could cause low blood sugar

Other medicines on AGS Beers list:

ASSESSING ASSESS

Medications that could contribute to fall risk?

"CNS-active" meds

- Gabapentin
- Lexapro
- Sona ta
- Hydrocodone/ a ceta minophen

Doxylamine cough liquid & Tylenol PM are anticholinergic drugs

Medications that could contribute to cognitive changes?

Tylenol PM recently added to doxylamine (in the cough product) – anticholinergic medications

Medication that could cause low blood sugar

Glipizide is a
"sulfonylurea"
diabetes
medication;
patient needs to
have sufficient food
intake when taking
this medication

Other medicines on AGS Beers list:

Xarelto – need to balance bleeding risks with convenient once-daily dosing, for example

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES



START WITH A COMPLETE, ACCURATE MEDICATION LIST

Identify any blanks!

- Name
- Dosage
- Reason for each medication: why is person taking it?
- When started: duration of use
- Name of prescriber

Share it at every health-care encounter!



IF SOME IS TAKING A MEDICATION ON THE BERS LIST

It's OK to remind the physician (prescriber) that the drug is on the AGS Beers Criteria®, and to ask whether another treatment might be safer and more effective.

Value in having the conversation, regardless

- "'Are any of my medications on the Beers List?"
- "T've heard about the Beers Criteria; could you review my medicines to see if I am taking any of these drugs?"

PINSPILS—RESCIRCEFORCOSUMES& HEATHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Collaborative effort with Department of Family Medicine at McMaster University, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), and Taper MD

https://www.pimsplus.org/

PIMsPlus Drug Search

- Can search by drug name
- Links to Medline Plus. gov drug information page
- PIMsPlus Notes provides information if it is considered a "PIM"
- Links to TaperMD website (for healthcare professionals though)

PIMsPlus Notes

glyburide (glibenclamide)

May increase risk of severe or prolonged hypoglycemia.

At eGFR < 30 avoid use; eGFR between 30 - 44 adjust dose (Must Be Considered).

HEATHINAGING WESTE (AMERICAN CHRICANS SOCIETY FOLIATION)

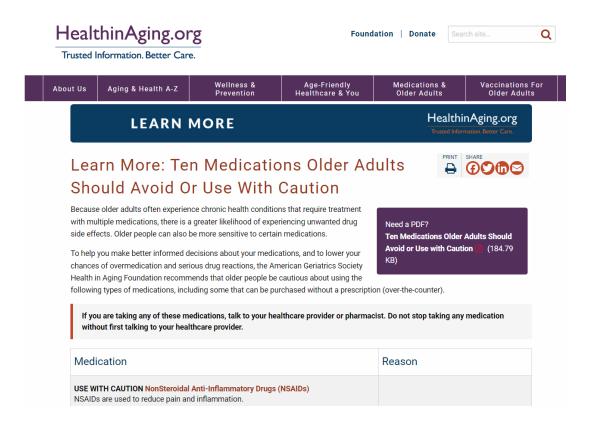


AGS foundation website:

https://www.healthinaging.org/

HEATHINAGINGWESTE (AS FOLDATION)

• AGS foundation website: https://www.healthinaging.org/

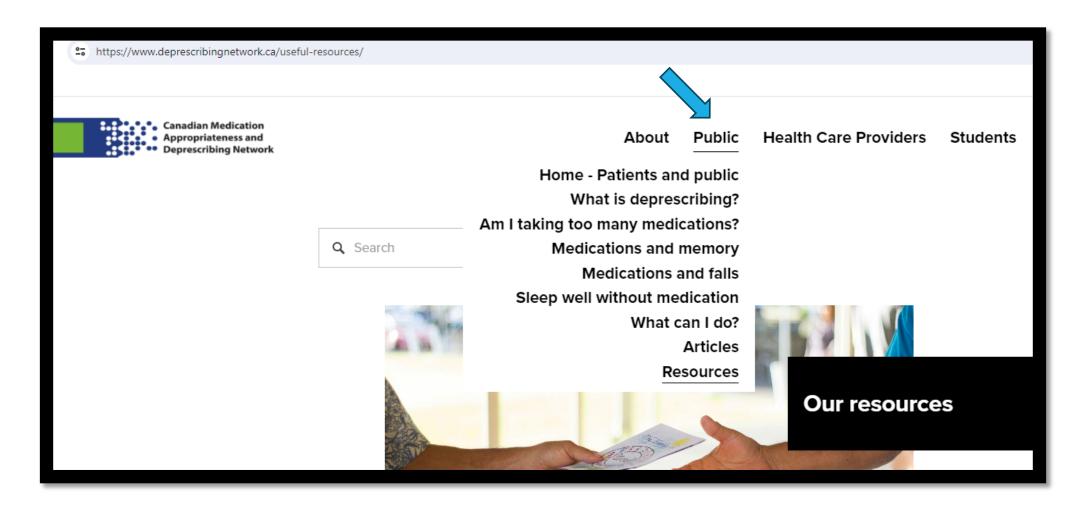




RESCRES FROM SAMPA

Canadian Medication Appropriateness and Deprescribing Network: https://www.deprescribingnetwork.ca/patients-and-public

- "Patient and Public Resources" page
- https://www.deprescribingnetwork.ca/useful-resources/



Resources from Canada (deprescribing network.ca)

2-SIDEDHANDOUT ABOUT MEDICATIONS & AGING (DEPRESCRIBNO RETWORK CA):

What can you do?

Book a special appointment with your health care professional to review your medications.

What was good for you then may not be good for you now. That's why it's important to regularly review your medications with your doctor, pharmacist or nurse, especially if you take five or more medications.

Together, you may decide to deprescribe a medication. Deprescribing reducing the dose or stopping a medication that n be causing harm.

Questions to ask your doctor, pha

- 1. Why am I taking this medication?
- 2. What are the potential benefits and harms
- 3. Can it affect my memory or cause me to fall
- 4. Can I stop or reduce the dose of this medic
- 5. Who do I follow up with and when?

For more information on medica the Canadian Deprescribing Net deprescribingnetwo

As we get older, we should be careful with our medications



Did you know?

Older adults are hospitalized five

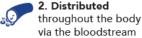
As we age, our body becomes less efficient at processing medications



Medications are:

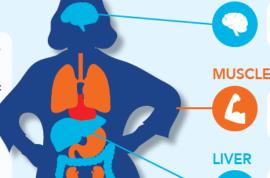


into the body



Medications can help us in many different ways. However, with age, it is important to know that:

- We become more sensitive to the effects of medications.
- Our bodies do not process medications as efficiently.
- We are more likely to evnerience



The brain becomes more sensitive to drug effects. The effects of medications on the brain may also last longer.

MUSCLE & FAT

BRAIN

Some medications stay longer in our body because we have less muscle and more body fat.

The liver becomes less efficient at eliminating some medications. This may lead to interactions when taking multiple medications.

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Medicines & medication management	•	Managing medicines for person with Alzheimer's Taking Medicines Safely as You Age	https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/medicines-and-medication-management
Medical care & appointments	•	What Should I Ask My Doctor During a Checkup? Understand your medications	https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/medical- care-and-appointments/what-should-i-ask- my-doctor-during-checkup#medications
https://www.nia.nih.gov/ → Health Information tab → "Health Topics A-Z" → M (by alpha listing)			

SUMPRYANDIAGEHOMERONIS

AGS Beers Criteria \mathbb{R} = potentially inappropriate medications in a dults ≥ 65 years old

- An educational tool to guide prescribing
- Medication risks outweigh benefits in many or certain situations

Grow a wareness of PIMs and the need to a lways consider medicines as cause of a new symptom

• Ask about AGS Beers Criteria medications as part of regular medication review

Best to a void prescribing PIMs unless safer options are not a vailable

• Be aware of risks and how to reduce them (if a PIM is prescribed)

We need to talk about our medications!

• Shared decision making between patient and clinician

THANKYOU



Sign up to receive my monthly newsletter on medication safety topics (scroll down on this link)

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Consumer resource: Maybe It's Your Medications (Maybe Its Your Meds.com)

