

# LE ANALISI SULL'USO DEI FARMACI: METODI ED ESPERIENZE IN ITALIA



## *Politerapia e interazioni negli anziani: possibili interventi*

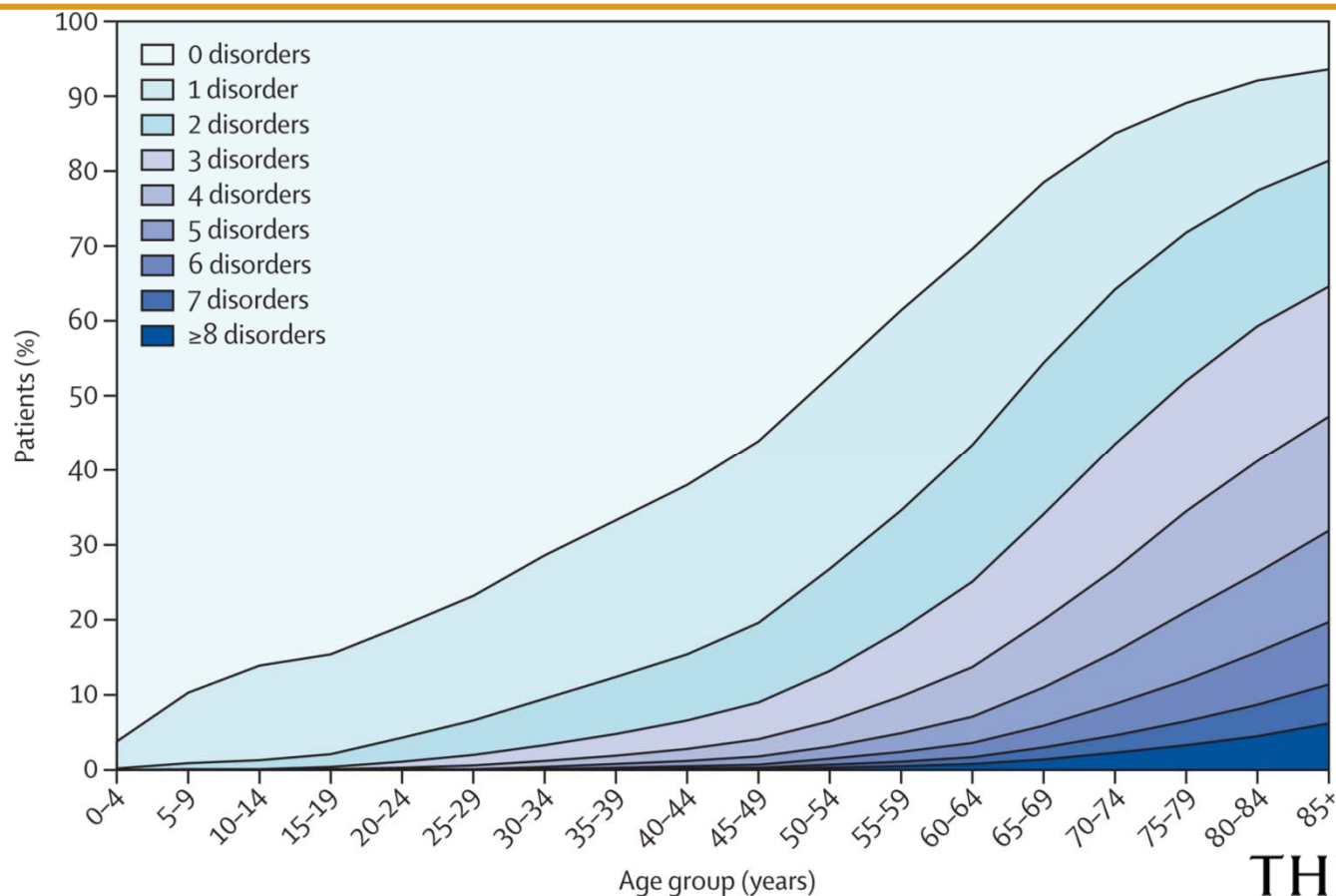


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# Multimorbidity

## Epidemiology of multimorbidity and implications for health care, research, and medical education: a cross-sectional study



# Older adults and polypharmacy

## Italy

	All age groups (≥ 65 y) n=12.301.537	65-74 y n=6.154.421	75-84 y n=4.474.887	≥85 y n= 1.672.229
Polypharmacy				
5-9 drugs	6.024.383 (49.0%)	2.681.639 (43.6%)	2.462.378 (55.0%)	880.366 (52.6%)
≥10 drugs	<b>1.389.591 (11.3%)</b>	529.506 (8.6%)	629.043 (14.1%)	231.042 (13.8%)

Onder G et al. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci. 2013

## US

... The highest prevalence of medication use was among persons aged at least 65 years, of whom **12% took at least 10 medications**

Kaufman et al. JAMA 2002

## Sweden

... mean number of drugs was 7.9 for age group 70-79 y, 9.3 for age group 80-89 y and 9.7 for age group 90 y or older

Hovstadius B et al. BMC Clin Pharmacol. 2009

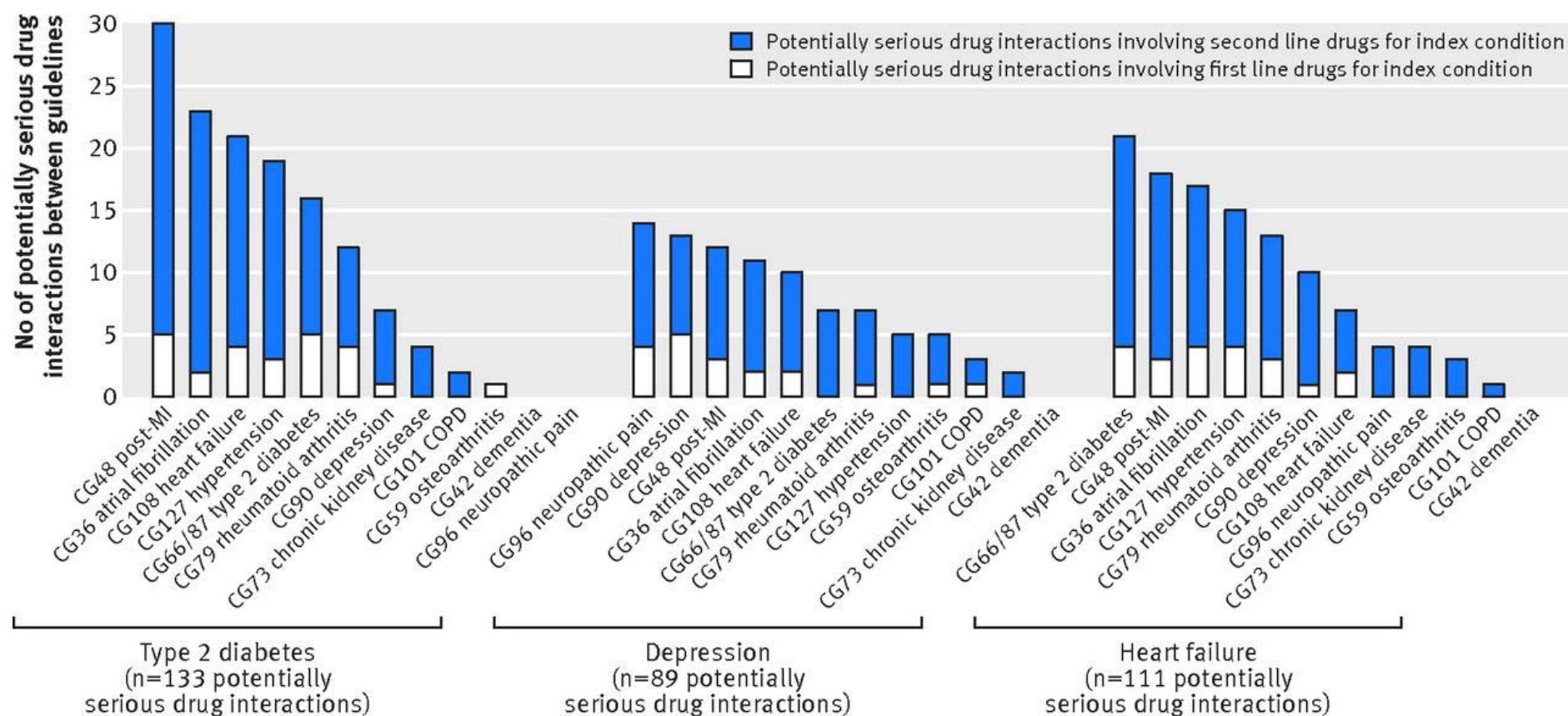
# Community drug data

## Drug-drug Interactions

	All age groups (> 65 y) n=12.301.537	65-74 y n=6.154.421	75-84 y n=4.474.887	≥85 y n= 1.672.229
Use of Warfarin + NSAIDs/COX-2 inh. + ASA/antiplatelets	<b>22.174 (0.2%)</b>	8.574 (0.1%)	11.135(0.2%)	2.465 (0.1%)
Use of ACE inhibitors/ARB + Aldosterone antagonists + NSAIDS/COX-2 inhibitors	<b>85.412 (0.7%)</b>	28.860(0.5%)	40.665(0.9%)	15.887(1.0%)
Use of ≥ 2 drugs that induce QT prolongation	<b>36.359 (0.3%)</b>	13.580(0.2%)	15.903(0.4%)	6.876 (0.4%)

Onder G et al. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci. 2013

# Potentially serious drug-drug interactions between drugs recommended by clinical guidelines for 3 index conditions and drugs recommended by each of other 11 other guidelines





## EDITORIALS

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### Guidelines, polypharmacy, and drug-drug interactions in patients with multimorbidity

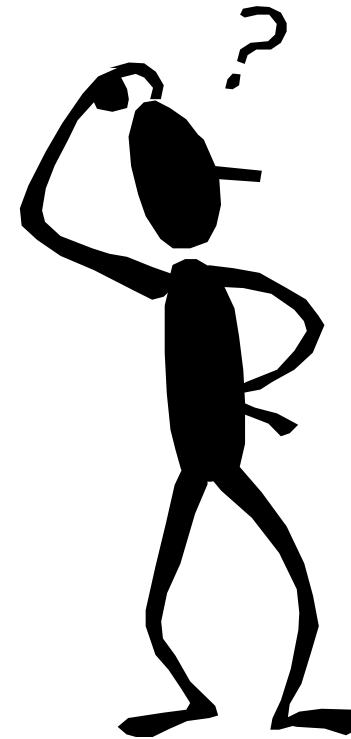
A cascade of failure

Alessandra Marengoni *assistant professor*<sup>1,2</sup>, Graziano Onder *assistant professor*<sup>2,3</sup>

One of the biggest challenges in preventing **drug-drug interactions** is the **substantial gap between theory and clinical practice**. Despite specific regulatory pathways for drug development and marketing, we have so far failed to consider pharmacological agents in a holistic way. **Drugs have a network of effects that go well beyond a single specific drug target, particularly in patients with multimorbidity.**

# Strategies

- Screening



# Screening

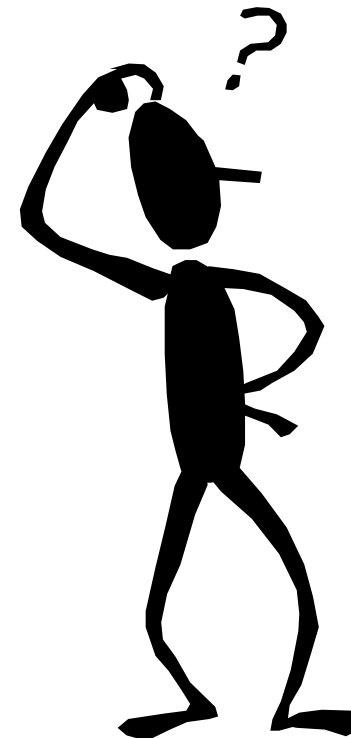
## GerontoNET ADR risk score

	<b>Any ADR OR</b>	<b>Severe ADR OR</b>	<b>Score</b>
Use of drugs (vs. < 5)			
5-7	1.90	1.58	1
8 or more	4.07	4.09	4
Previous ADR	2.41	2.18	2
≥ 4 diseases	1.36	1.72	1
Heart failure	1.79	1.61	1
Liver disease	1.31	1.32	1
Renal failure	1.21	1.24	1

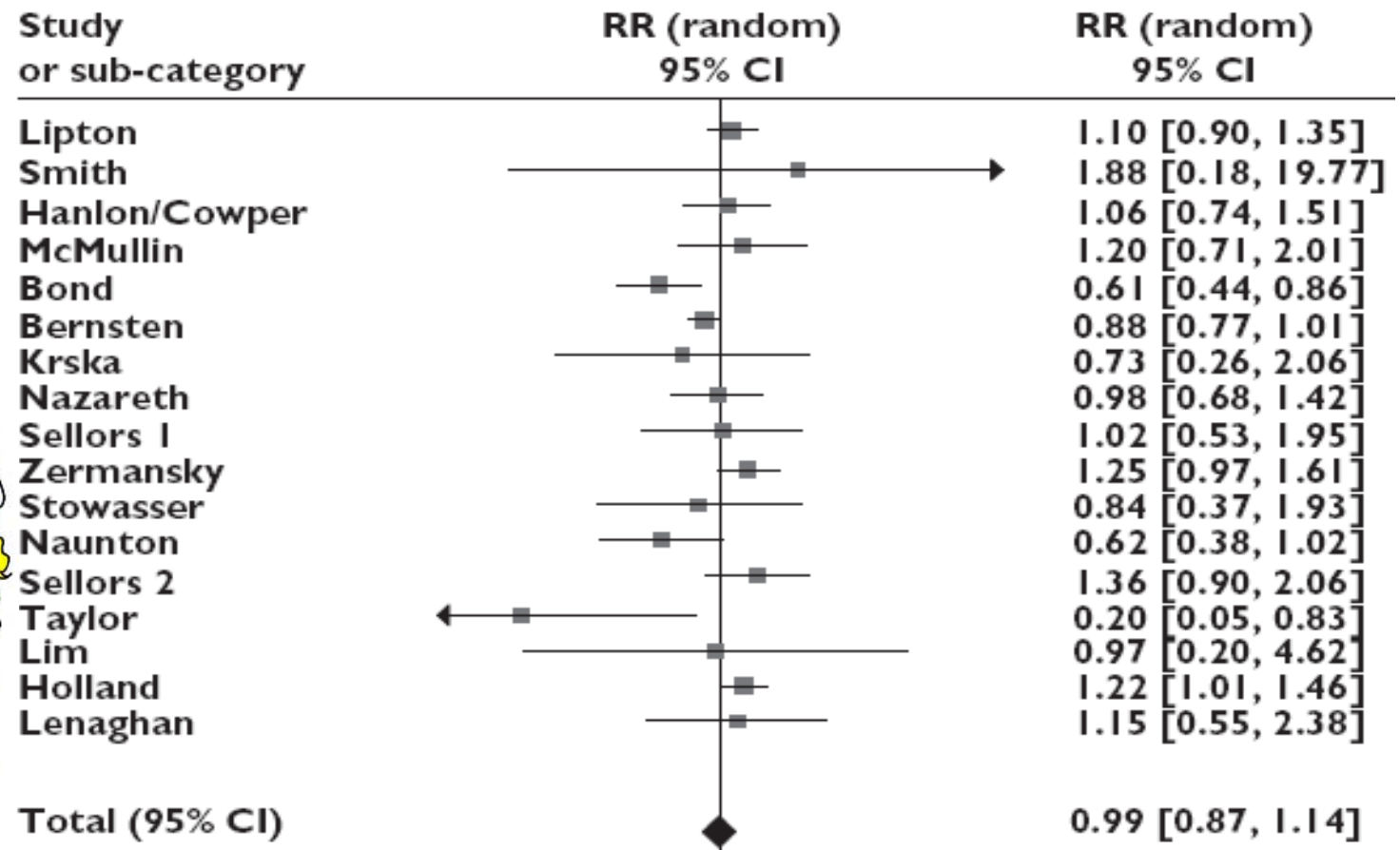


# Strategies

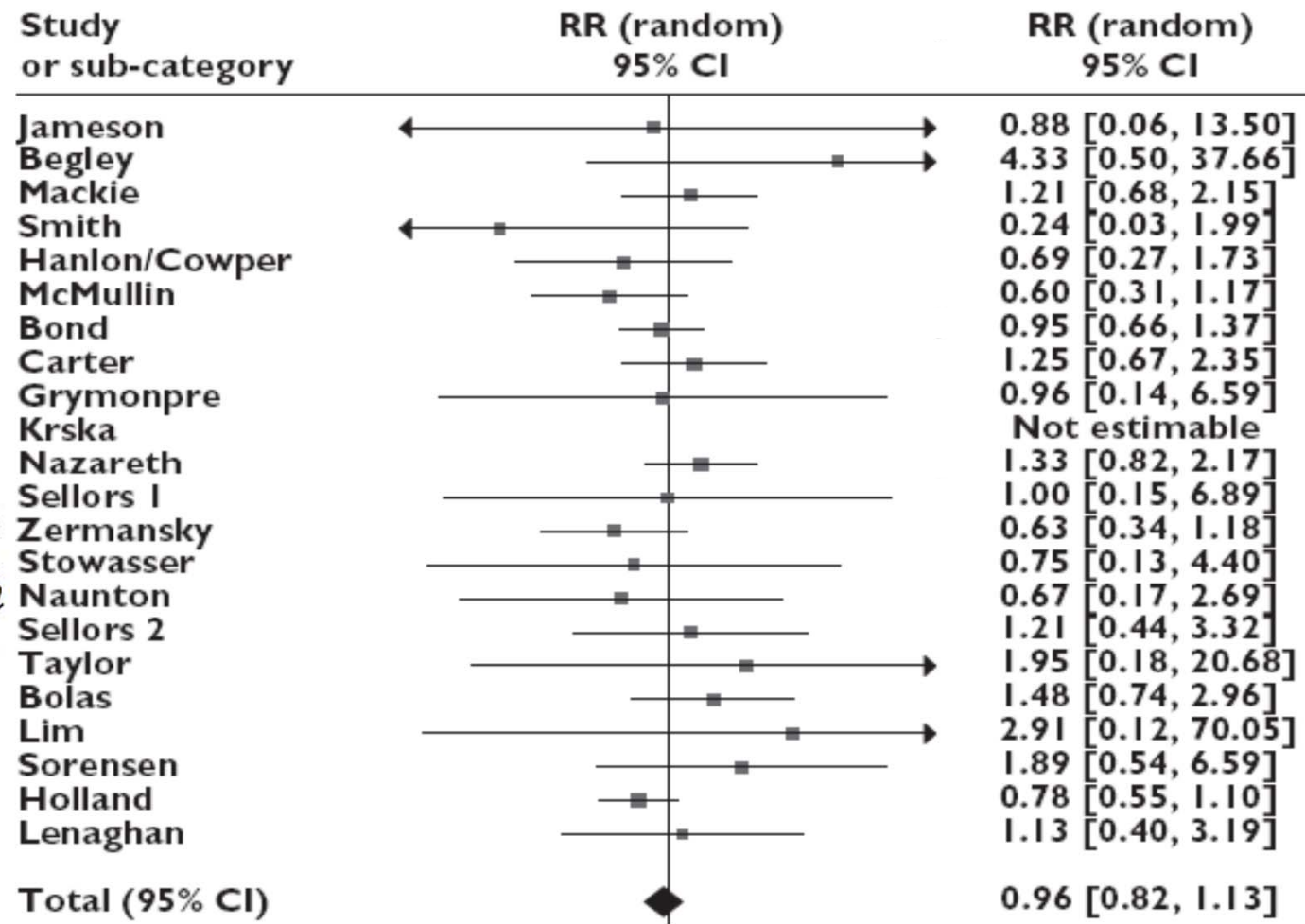
- Screening
- Interventions:
  1. Medication review



# Medication review hospitalization



# Medication review mortality



# Strategies

- Screening
- Interventions:
  1. Medication review
  2. Avoid use of un-necessary or inappropriate medications
  3. Computer-based prescribing systems



# Example screen shot of an alert for diazepam, a nonpreferred benzodiazepine

**Medication Alternatives**

Alternatives for DIAZEPAM 5MG TABLET

\* Formulary drug.  
\* Caution in elderly: Has a long half-life (often several days) in the elderly and active metabolites, producing prolonged sedation and increasing the risk of falls and fractures. Short- and intermediate-acting benzodiazepines are preferred if a

Web Links:  
No additional information.

Medication	Sig	Quantity	Refill	End Date	Class	Cost
OXAZEPAM 15MG CAPSULE [8317]	1C PO TID PRN FOR 'ANXIETY'	30	1			1
BUSPAR 10MG TABLET [5257]	1T PO BID FOR 'ANXIETY'	100	1			26
PAXIL 40MG TAB [14141]	0.5T PO QD	15	1			12

Cancel Filing Process Continue with Original Rx Accept Alternative

# Computerized provider order entry systems (CPOE)

	<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>RR (95%CI)</b>
	Rate/100 residents-years	Rate/100 residents-years	
All ADE	10.8	10.4	1.06 (0.92-1.23)
Preventable	4.0	3.9	1.02 (0.81-1.30)
Severe	3.2	3.0	1.07 (0.82-1.40)
Preventable and severe	2.1	1.8	1.15 (0.82-1.61)

Gurwitz J J Am Geriatr Soc 2008



# Unintended effects of a CPOE nearly hard-stop alert to prevent a drug interaction: a randomized controlled trial.

Study Month	Unintended Consequences, No.	Nature of Unintended Consequence
1	2	Both were delays in appropriate therapy being administered. The first was a 1-d delay in warfarin administration. Definitely related to the intervention. The second was a failure to prescribe appropriate trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole prophylaxis for an otherwise critically ill patient. Probably related to the intervention.
2	1	A 3-d delay in initiation of antibiotic therapy recommended by the Infectious Diseases Consultation Service. Probably related to the intervention.
3	1	A 3-d delay in initiation of warfarin therapy (patient receiving alternative anticoagulation). Definitely related to the intervention.



# Computer-based prescribing systems

## Limitations

1. Lack of evidence on clinical benefits
2. Home-made and not standardized,
3. Different types of tool or algorithms implemented
4. Complexity of older adults not assessed (being mainly focused on pharmacological issues)



## SPECIAL ARTICLES

### Patient-Centered Care for Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions: A Stepwise Approach from the American Geriatrics Society

American Geriatrics Society Expert Panel on the Care of Older Adults with Multimorbidity\*

#### Guiding Principles:

1. Elicit and incorporate **patient preferences** into medical decision-making for older adults with multimorbidity.



*The* NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

## Goal-Oriented Patient Care — An Alternative Health Outcomes Paradigm

David B. Reuben, M.D., and Mary E. Tinetti, M.D.

... focus on a patient's **individual health goals** within or across a variety of dimensions (e.g., symptoms; physical functional status, including mobility; and social and role functions) and determine how well these goals are being met...

# Goal oriented care

1. Individually desired rather than universally applied health states;
2. It simplifies decision making for patients with multiple conditions by focusing on outcomes that span conditions and aligning treatments toward common goals
3. It prompts patients to articulate which health states are important to them and their relative priority

# Goal oriented care

Comparison of Traditional Disease-Specific and Goal-Oriented Outcomes.*			
Measurement Domain	Examples of Diseases	Traditional Outcomes	Goal-Oriented Outcomes
Survival	Cancer, heart failure	Overall, disease-specific, and disease-free survival	None if survival not a high-priority goal; survival until personal milestones are met (e.g., grandchild's wedding)
Biomarkers	Diabetes, COPD	Change in indicators of disease activity (e.g., glycated hemoglobin level, CRP level, and pulmonary-function tests)	None (not a meaningful outcome observed or felt by patient)
Signs and symptoms	Heart failure, COPD, arthritis	Inventory of disease-specific signs and symptoms (e.g., dyspnea, edema, and back pain)	Symptoms that have been identified as important by the patient (e.g., control of dyspnea or pain sufficient to perform an activity such as bowling or walking grandchild to school)
Functional status, including mobility	Cancer, heart failure, COPD	Usually none or disease-specific (e.g., Karnofsky score, NYHA functional classification, and 6-minute walk test)	Ability to complete or compensate for inability to complete specific tasks identified as important by the patient (e.g., ability to get dressed without help)

# Research - Outcomes

## Efficacy research

### *Disease oriented*

(occurrence of a single disease or exacerbation of a single chronic condition)

### *Rating scales/test measures*

## Effectiveness research

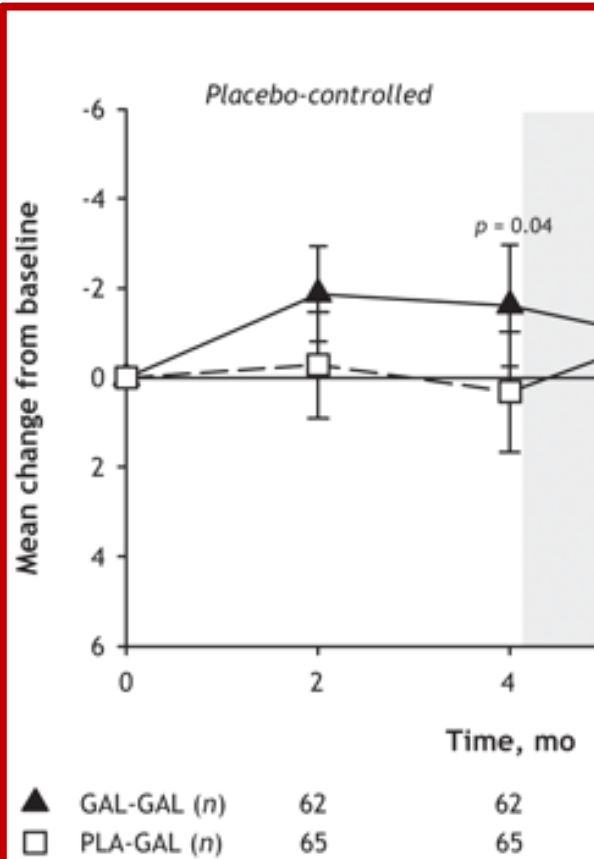
### *Universal health*

*outcomes* (symptoms burden, function, health related quality of life, active life expectancy)

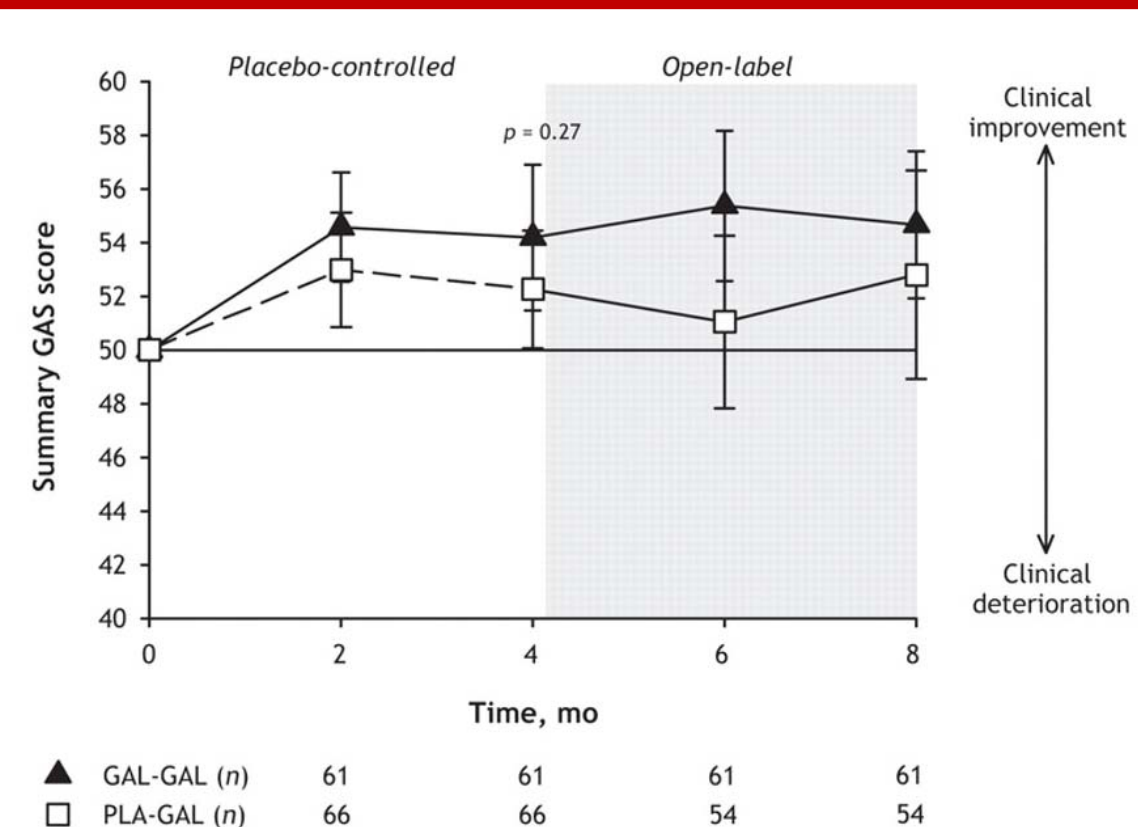
### *Real-world measure of clinical practice*

### *Goal attainment*

# Attainment of treatment goals by people with Alzheimer's disease receiving galantamine: a randomized controlled trial



## Change in patient-caregiver Goal Attainment Scaling



## Change in AdasCOG

# Develop a common model for multimorbidity management

## Delivery system design

- Comprehensive assessment
- Coordinated team
- Individualized care plans
- Case manager

## Decision support

- Implementation of EBM
- Team training
- Consultation system

## Self management

- Tailor Self-management
- Options for self management
- Shared decision making

## Clinical information system

- Electronic patients records
- Exchange patients infos
- Uniform coding
- Patient operated technology

## Community resources

- Access community resources
- Involvement of social network

*Palmer K et al. Health Policy in press*



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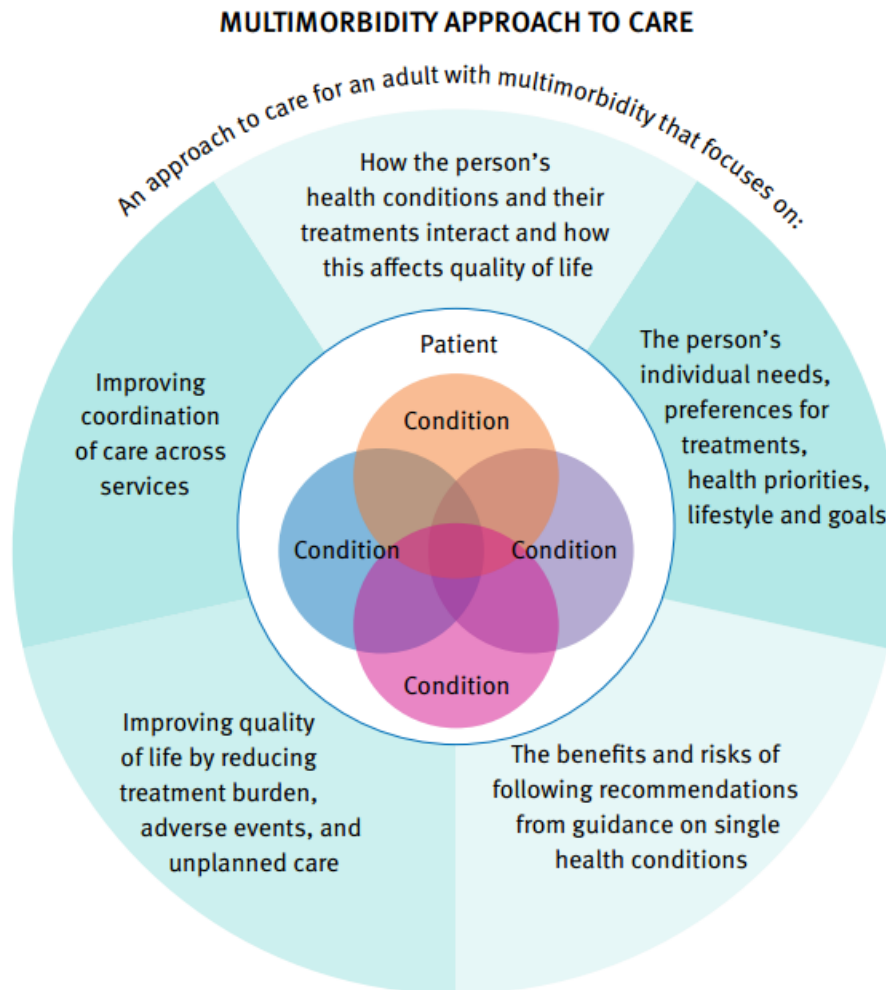
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*Palmer K et al. Health Policy in press*





# NICE guideline - Multimorbidity



1.5.1 - Focus on the person's **individual needs, preferences for treatments, health priorities, lifestyle and goals**

1.6.3 - Establish disease burden by **talking to people** about how their health problems affect their day-to-day life.

1.6.4 - Establish treatment burden by **talking to people** about how treatments for their health problems affect their day-to-day life

1.6.7 - **Encourage people with multimorbidity to clarify what is important to them, including their personal goals, values and priorities.**

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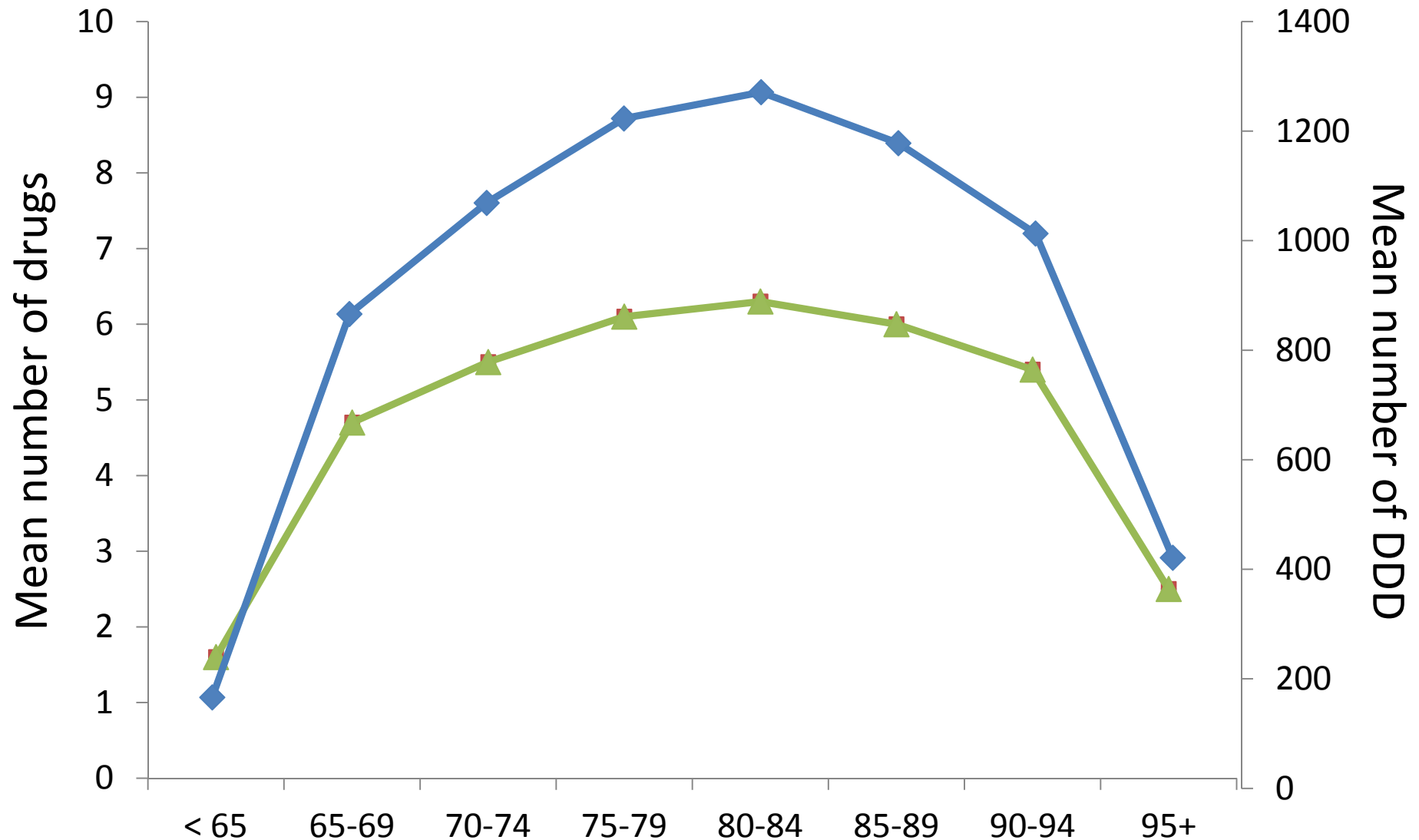
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2. Recognizing the limitations of the evidence base, interpret and apply the medical literature specifically to older adults with multimorbidity.
3. Frame clinical management decisions within the context of risks, burdens, benefits, and **prognosis** for older adults with multimorbidity.

# Drug use in Italy (n=15,931,642)



Onder G et al. JAMDA 2015

Medication	% medication use in according to age group (years)								65-89	≥90
	All	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	≥94		
Proton pump inhibitors	40.9	34.1	39.6	44.5	47.6	47.0	42.2	18.9	41.3	37.3
Platelet aggregation inhibitors	32.8	22.1	30.2	37.1	41.5	42.2	38.7	17.1	32.6	34.1
HMG CoA reductase inhibitors	26.1	24.5	29.2	30.9	28.5	21.6	12.1	2.6	27.4	10.1
Beta blocking agents, selective	19.7	17.3	20.2	22.2	22.6	20.4	15.4	5.0	20.3	13.2
Fluoroquinolones	19.2	17.3	19.3	20.6	21.1	20.4	18.8	9.1	19.5	16.7
ACE inhibitors, plain	17.9	14.5	17.1	19.3	21.1	21.2	19.2	8.3	18.0	16.9
Dihydropyridine derivatives	17.6	13.3	17.1	20.3	21.6	20.2	16.7	6.9	17.8	14.6
Combinations of penicillins	15.9	17.5	16.7	15.8	15.3	14.5	13.3	6.4	16.3	11.9
Angiot. II antagonists and diuretics	14.5	12.7	15.2	16.9	16.5	13.7	10.1	3.4	15.0	8.7
Propionic acid derivatives	14.3	14.0	15.2	15.9	15.1	12.8	10.1	4.1	14.8	8.8
Glucocorticoids	14.2	13.4	14.1	14.9	15.2	14.8	13.7	6.9	14.3	12.3
Sulfonamides, plain	13.9	6.1	9.2	14.1	20.3	25.7	27.6	14.3	13.0	24.8
Angiotensin II antagonists, plain	13.6	12.0	13.8	15.0	15.5	14.5	11.9	4.5	13.9	10.3
Acetic acid derivatives	12.9	12.2	13.6	14.6	14.0	11.9	9.3	3.8	13.3	8.2
Vitamin D and analogues	12.5	11.0	12.8	14.0	14.1	12.6	9.9	3.8	12.7	8.6
Third-generation cephalosporins	11.9	10.1	10.9	12.0	13.4	14.7	16.2	9.9	11.7	14.9
Macrolides	11.0	12.5	11.9	11.1	10.3	9.3	8.5	4.0	11.3	7.5

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<b>Beta blocking agents, selective</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>
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<b>Angiot. II antagonists and diuretics</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>
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<b>Sulfonamides, plain</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>24.8</b>
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4. Consider **patients complexity** and **treatment feasibility** when making clinical management decisions for older adults with multimorbidity.



# Concerns about older persons' ability to adhere to complex medication regimens

Concern	Representative Quotation
Historical evidence of inability to adhere	Also I factor in adherence to even a basic treatment. If they cannot manage a basic treatment, the one I am giving them, <u>I am not going to complicate it further by adding something to get to the goal range.</u>
Difficulty understanding medications	<u>Whenever [patients] are confused about what medications they are on that suggests a problem.</u> When they can not tell you what the medications either by name or description, and they are confused about when they are supposed to take them
Availability of social support	Often what you are doing is assessing someone's personality and their abilities to integrate complicated information and goals and <u>if you have a patient who is limited you are obviously not going to push the meds nearly as hard unless there is somebody else in the picture who can administer them.</u>  I look at their functioning as a whole and also whether or not they live alone, their support system, have help.

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4. Consider treatment complexity and feasibility when making clinical management decisions for older adults with multimorbidity.
5. Use strategies for choosing **therapies that optimize benefit, minimize harm, and enhance quality of life** for older adults with multimorbidity.

# Avoid un-necessary drugs

## Herbal medications

If you are thinking about or already using an herbal medication

- ① Discuss use of the herbal medication with your doctor



DOES IT HAVE A  
PROVEN BENEFIT?  
WILL IT INTERACT WITH OTHER  
MEDICATIONS I AM TAKING?  
WHAT ARE POSSIBLE  
SIDE EFFECTS?

- ② Do not use  
in children  
or if you are  
pregnant



- ③ Watch for possible  
side effects



nausea	allergic reactions
vomiting	rashes
diarrhea	asthma
fatigue	headaches
dizziness	dry mouth

### Herbal meds:

- Not regulated
- No proofs of safety and efficacy
- Contamination
- Concentration (?)
- Side effects

Onder G et al. JACC 2017

Onder G et al. JAMA 2016

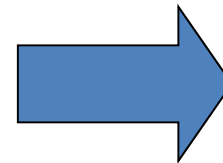
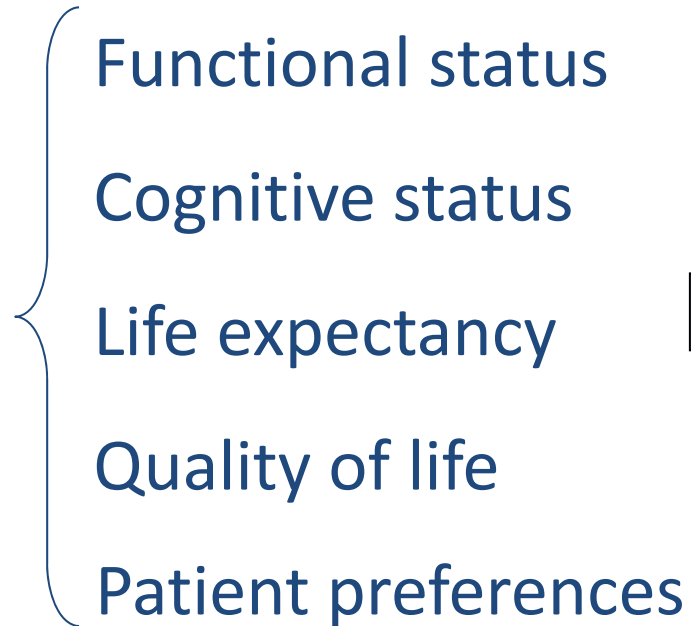
# Prescribing

Disease



Drug treatment

Disease  
+  
Patient



Appropriate  
drug  
treatment

# Conclusions

1. Polypharmacy is common
2. Lack of rules on treatment of complex older adults
3. Patient preferences should be included in the prescribing process
4. CGA and management is a valuable instrument to improve quality of prescribing and reduce polypharmacy



AGE 0-4  
AMOXICILIN

4-12  
RITALIN

12-18  
APPETITE  
SUPPRESSANTS

18-24  
NO-DOZ

24-38  
PROZAC

38-65  
ZANTAC

65 —  
EVERYTHING  
ELSE

©1991 WILKINSON, Philadelphia Daily News

# Statins in primary prevention

**US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)** recommendation statement on statins for prevention of cardiovascular disease:

- initiating use of low- to moderate-dose statins in adults aged 40 to 75 years without a history of CVD who have 1 or more CVD risk factors and a calculated 10-year CVD event risk of 10% or greater (**B recommendation**) or 7.5% to 10% (**C recommendation**).
- absolute benefit for use of statins of 0.40% for all-cause mortality and 0.43% for cardiovascular mortality

*JAMA*. 2016;316(19):1997-2007.

# Statins in primary prevention

**MAYO CLINIC** Statin Choice Decision Aid

Current Risk

Select Risk Calculator

ACC/AHA ASCVD Framingham Reynolds

Do you have a history of events such as prior heart attack or stroke, acute coronary syndromes, history of angioplasty or stents, etc?

Yes No

These figures are used to calculate my risk of having a heart attack in the next 10 years:

Age 70

Gender M F

Population Group White or other

Smoker Yes No

Diabetes Yes No

Treated SBP Yes No

Conv. Unit SI Unit

Systolic Blood Pressure 140 mmHg

HDL Cholesterol 100 mg/dL

Total Cholesterol 220 mg/dL

Select Current Intervention

Statins No Std Dose High Dose

Notes Document

Benefits vs Downsides according to my personal health information  
Using ACC/AHA ASCVD Risk Calculator

No alternative intervention was selected

Current Risk

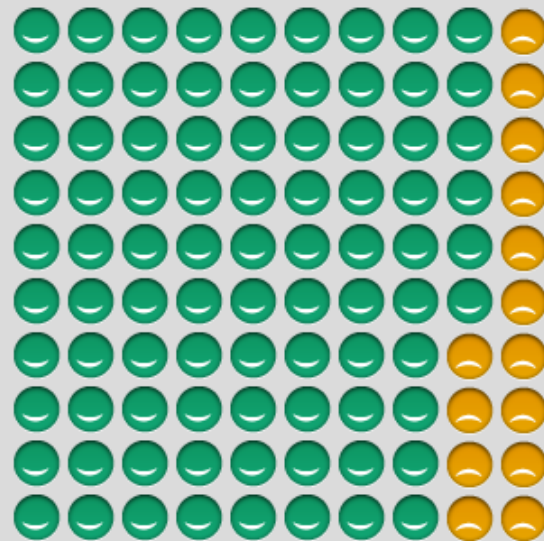
<https://statindecisionaid.mayoclinic.org/>



### Current Risk of having a heart attack

Over 10 years

86 people will have no heart attack





Current Risk

Intervention

Issues

Notes

Document

Benefits vs Downsides according to my personal health information  
Using ACC/AHA ASCVD Risk Calculator

3. View Issues

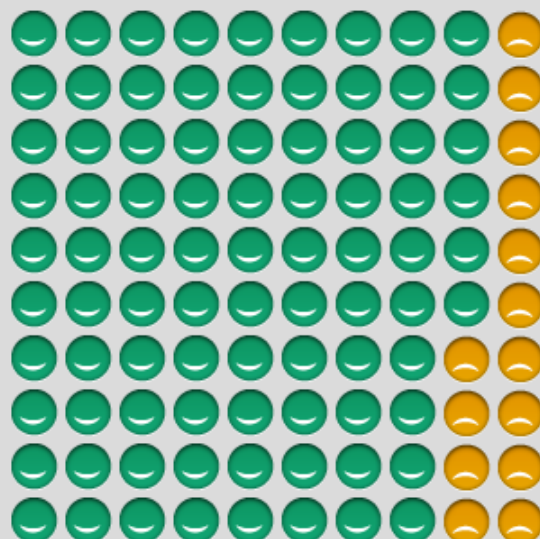
### Current Risk of having a heart attack

Risk for 100 people like you who **do not**  
medicate for heart problems

Over 10 years

**14** people  
will have a  
heart attack

**86** people  
will have no  
heart attack



### Future Risk of having a heart attack

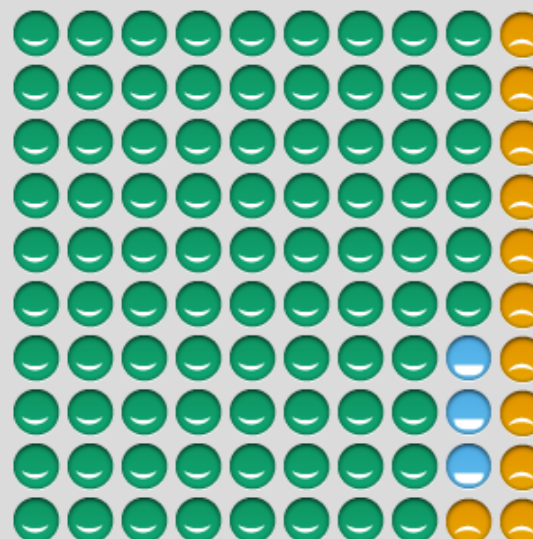
Risk for 100 people like you who do take  
**standard dose statins**

Over 10 years

**11** people  
will have a  
heart attack

**86** people  
will have no  
heart attack

**3** people will  
be saved from a  
heart attack by  
taking medicine





Current Risk

Intervention

Issues

Notes

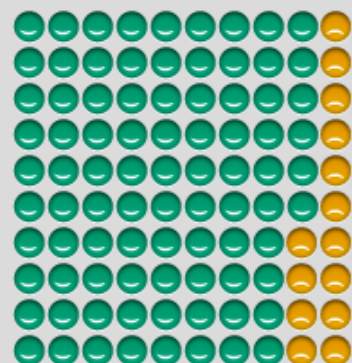
Document

Benefits vs Downsides according to my personal health information

Using ACC/AHA ASCVD Risk Calculator

Current Risk  
of having a heart attack

Risk for 100 people like you who **do not**  
medicate for heart problems



Over 10 years  
**14** people will have a heart attack  
**86** people will have no heart attack

Cost

**Standard dose statins**  
about \$4/month

Daily Routine

**Standard dose statins**  
One pill once a day

Other Benefits

**Standard dose statins**  
The use of statins reduces your  
stroke risk by about one fifth.

Side Effects

**Standard dose statins**

Common side effects  
nausea, diarrhea, constipation  
(most patients can tolerate);

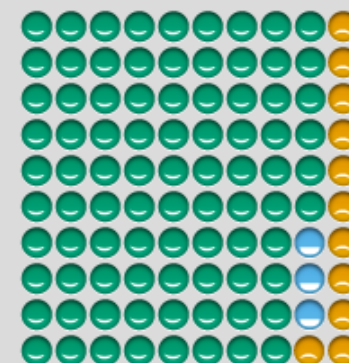
Muscle aching/stiffness  
5 in 100 patients  
(some need to stop statins because of this);

Liver blood test goes up  
(no pain, no permanent liver damage):  
2 in 100 patients  
(some need to stop statins because of this);

Muscle and kidney damage  
1 in 20,000 patients  
(requires patients to stop statins).

Future Risk  
of having a heart attack

Risk for 100 people like you who do take  
**standard dose statins**



Over 10 years  
**11** people will have a heart attack  
**86** people will have no heart attack  
**3** people will be saved from a heart  
attack by taking medicine

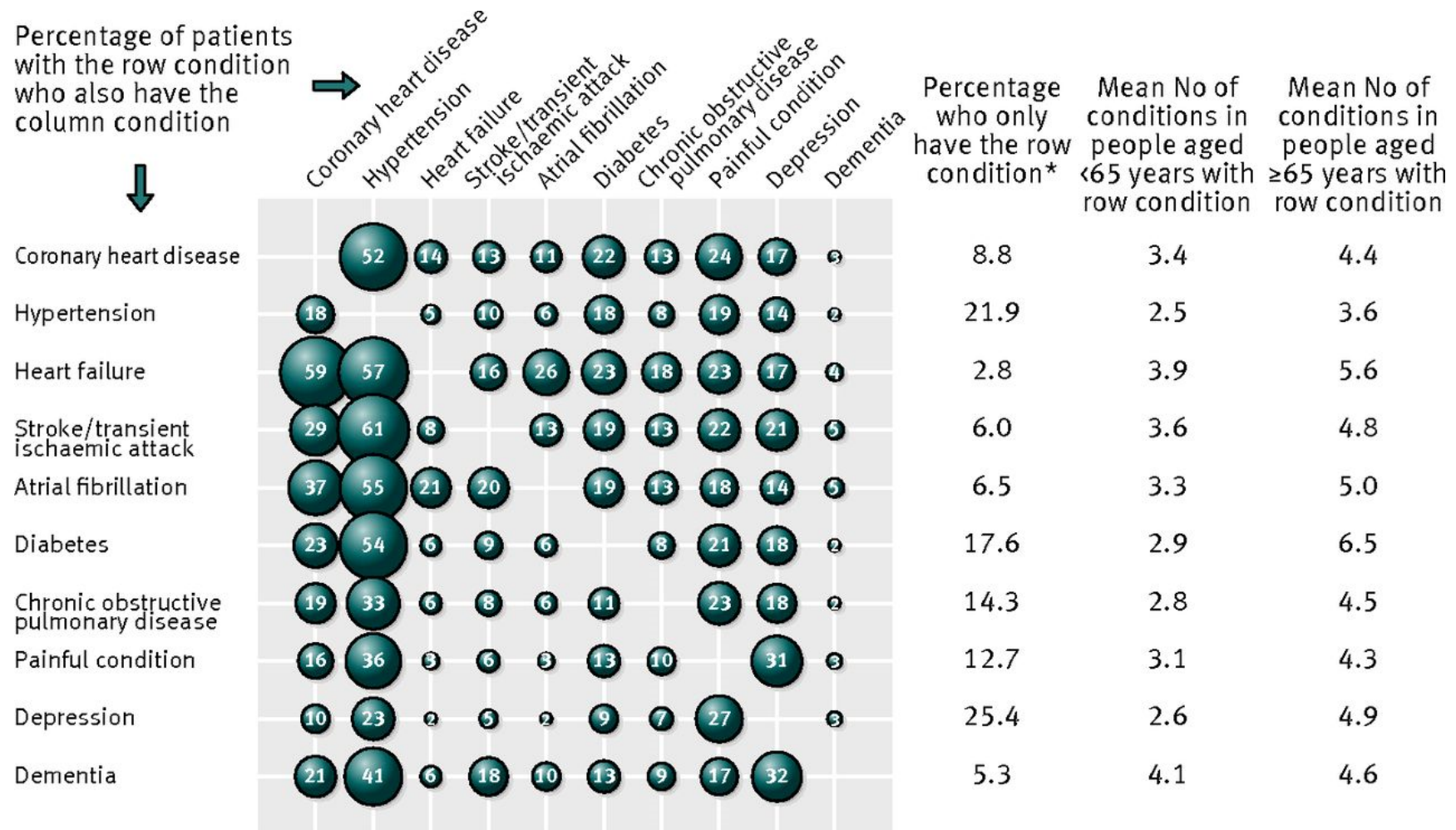
# Statins in primary prevention

**US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)** recommendation statement on statins for prevention of cardiovascular disease:

- The USPSTF concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of initiating statin use in adults 76 years and older (I statement).

*JAMA*. 2016;316(19):1997-2007.

# Comorbidity of 10 common conditions



\* Percentage who do not have one of 39 other conditions in the full count

# Shared decision making



... Health care professionals should include the patient (and, where relevant, their family) in making decisions about their care and treatment, including identifying their **individual needs as well as deciding on future goals and outcomes to aim for.**

...**Individualized care plans should be constructed that represent these shared desires and decisions ...**

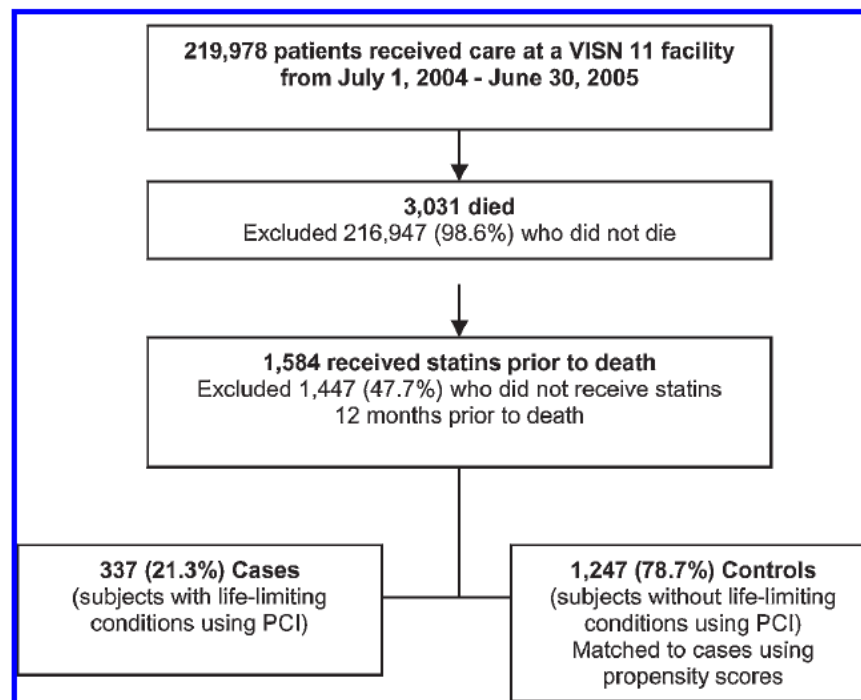
This is relevant to **multimorbidity patients** as they often have complex care needs that need careful consideration of potential negative outcomes, including loss of physical functioning, depression, and reduced quality of life.



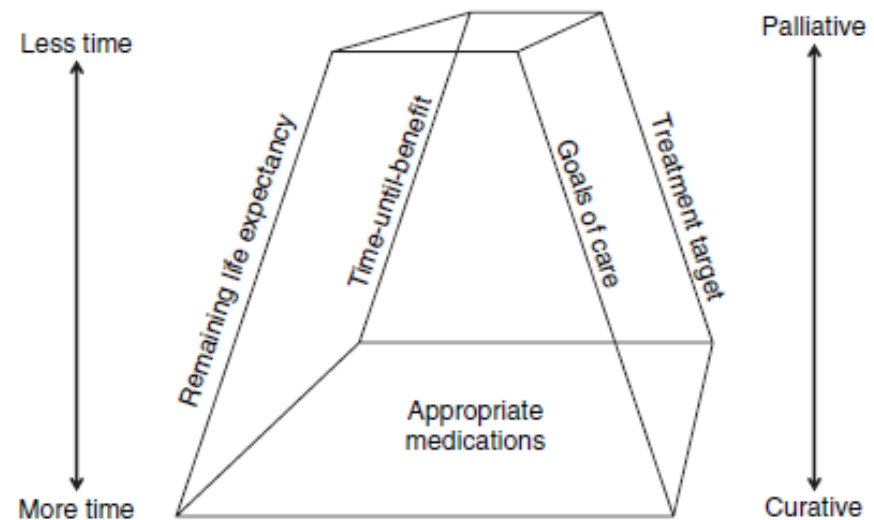
## Brief Reports

### Statins in the Last Six Months of Life: A Recognizable, Life-Limiting Condition Does Not Decrease their Use

MARIA J. SILVEIRA, M.D., M.A., M.P.H.,<sup>1,2</sup> ANAMARIA SEGNINI KAZANIS, M.A., M.A.,<sup>1</sup>  
and MATTHEW P. SHEVRIN, B.A.<sup>1</sup>



In conclusion, we find that statins are prescribed frequently in the last year of life for patients carrying recognizable, life-limiting conditions and that the patient's diagnosis does not appear to affect prescribing patterns. The small amount of discontinuation we did observe in the last 6 months of life occurs for reasons we have yet to understand. Still, our findings highlight an area for discussion as a specialty and potential intervention in the future.



Holmes, Clin Pharmacol Ther 2009