

Challenges and opportunities to move deprescribing forward a Belgian perspective

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General Practitioner
MCC



- General practitioner in Mons, group practice, interdisciplinary with nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, physiotherapists
- Coordinator and counsellor (MCC) in nursing home
- Chair of the « non-institutionalized adults » group (BelPEP)
- Teacher at the department of general medicine UCLouvain
- Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium

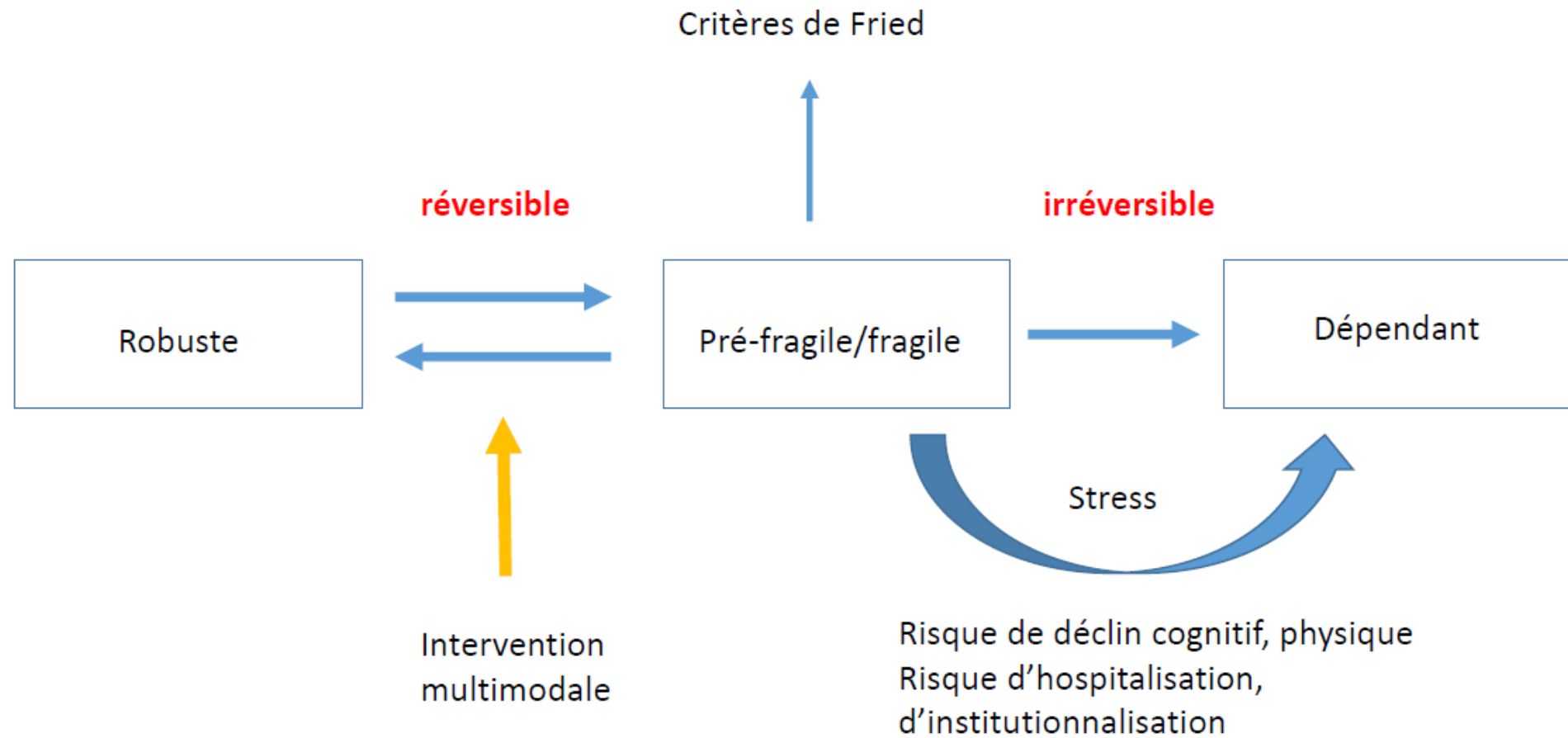
No conflict of interest to declare



Madame B.D., 91 years old

- Atrial fibrillation (without any complications)
- Mood disorder
- ostéoporosis
- **Seasonal allergic asthma**
- Total hip prosthesis (hip fracture from a fall)
- Incontinence
- Repeated Urinary tract infections
- **insomnia**
- dyspepsia
- **constipation**
- Bisoprolol 2,5 mg / Rivaroxaban 10 mg
- Escitalopram 10 mg
- Calcium carbonate 1,25 g / vit D
- Cetirizine 10 mg x 1 / j
- Oxybutynine 5 mg x 3 / j
- Lormetazepam 2 mg x 1 / j
- Lactulose 15 ml / j





Fried Criteria : frailty assessment

- Involuntary weight loss
- Fatigue experienced
- Reduced walking speed
- Decreased muscle strength
- Sedentary lifestyle

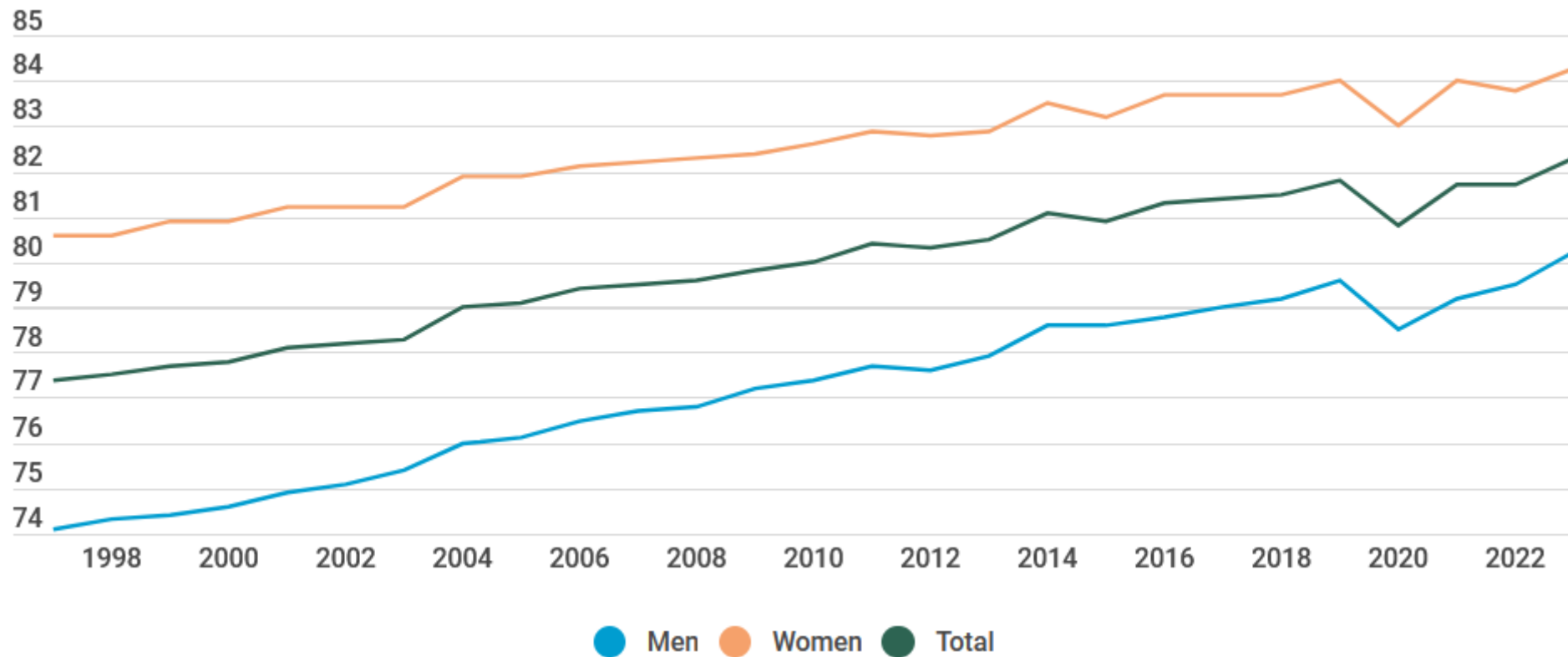
0 = robust

1-2 = pre-frailty

>3 = frailty



Evolution of life expectancy at birth per gender (1997-2023)

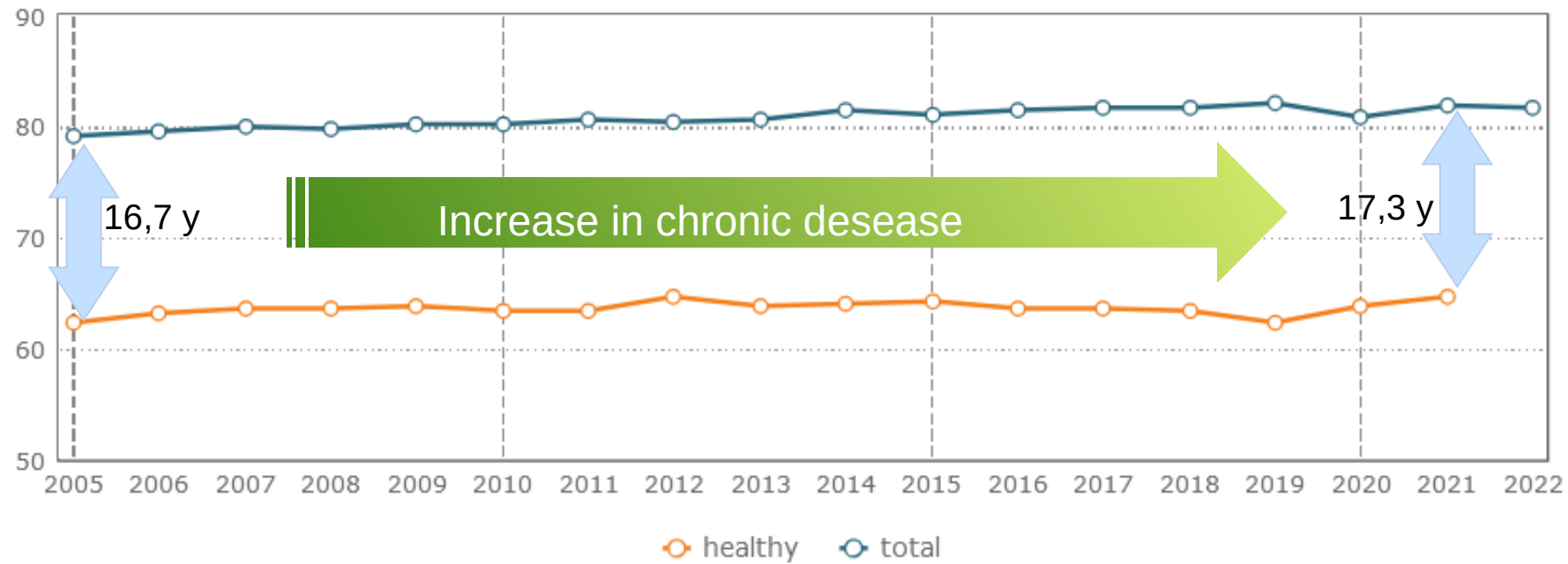


Statbel



Healthy life years and life expectancy - Belgium

years at birth



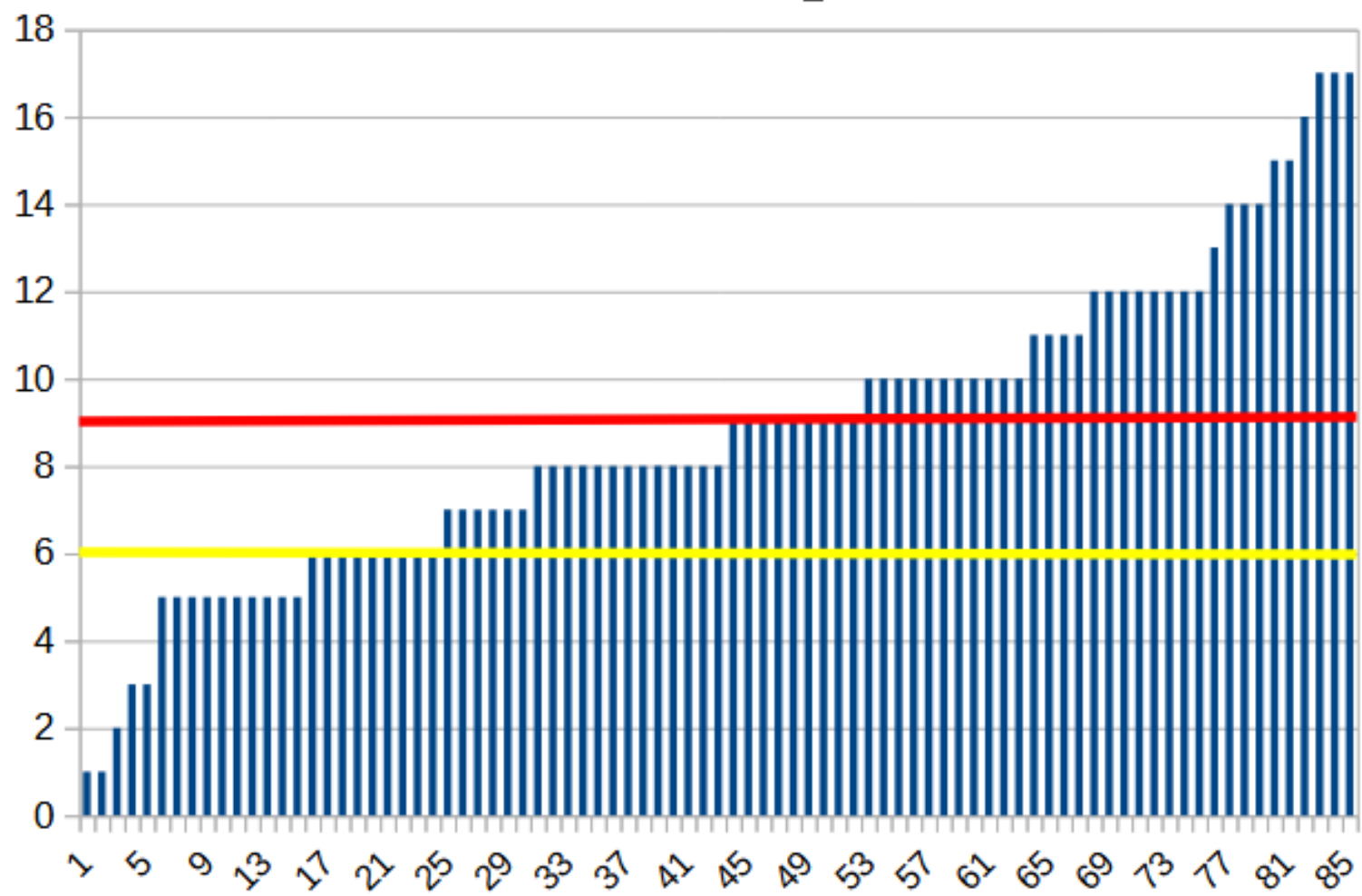
Statbel



In a nursing home...

- 85 patients
- 2022 : october and november
- All medications
- Average number of medications : 8,7 / person





Patient ?

- Attached to his treatment
 - As an indicator of health
 - As a protector against disease
 - As a solution to his symptoms
- And the family...

Stopping a drug reduces life expectancy ?



GP ?

- Lot of works, lot of patients
- No time to discuss the treatment, easier to prescribe
- Even if open to discussion, no agreement to stop

From a symptomatic practice to an etiologic reflection



Challenges

- Proper hydration, good nutrition
- Loneliness, social isolation
- Memory impairment
- Sarcopenia
- Iatrogenia : polymedication, overmedication



Opportunities

- Interdisciplinarity : from university to practice
 - Joint trainings GPs / pharmacists (see poster)
 - Joint trainings with high school (HelHa)
Gps/nurses/physiotherapists/ergotherapists/social workers
- Participation of pharmacists in medical practice team meetings
 - Shared clinical reflection

University

Local



Opportunities

- Nursing home
 - One of the MCC role is to organise consultation with the GPs
 - Ex. : Training about medications and psychotropes
 - Medication review (pharmacist)



Opportunities

- Medico-pharmaceutical consultation (CMP) INAMI
 - Rational prescription of drugs
 - Rational drug delivery
 - Safe use of drugs

Local



e-learning

Sevrage des benzodiazépines

🕒 **XL - 1 heure**

Vous souhaitez aider votre patient souffrant de troubles du sommeil à réduire progressivement sa consommation de benzodiazépines ou de Z-drugs, mais vous hésitez à vous lancer?

Médecins: 1 CP, Pharmacien d'officine: 2

CP, Pharmacien hospitalier: 2 CP

🕒 février 2024





Répertoire

Informations indépendantes et
objectives sur les médicaments



Folia

Toutes les nouveautés
concernant les médicaments



Auditorium

Modules de formations en ligne
gratuits et accrédités

80+

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Formulaire de soins aux
Personnes Agées



Événements

Conférences de consensus
Symposium



Fiches Transparence

Comparaison des traitements
pour une pathologie



Téléchargements

Répertoire en pdf (+archives)
Liens pour développeurs



Médicaments vétérinaires

vetcompendium.be
Folia Veterinaria

e-learning



Santé publique
Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire
Environnement

Volksgezondheid
Veiligheid van de Voedselketen
Leefmilieu



Dans cet e-learning, nous mettons à votre disposition des repères théoriques et des outils d'aide à la pratique en vue de donner une place aux alternatives non-médicamenteuses dans le cadre d'une consultation sur les problèmes de sommeil. Grâce à des séquences vidéo, des possibilités de cliquer pour accéder à du contenu, des constats validés dans la littérature, des discussions de cas, des outils d'aide à la pratique et des brochures à destination du patient... notre objectif est de vous donner, de manière interactive, les bases utiles pour parvenir à un usage plus rationnel des benzodiazépines.



Media campaigns



Santé publique
Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire
Environnement

Belgian Psychotropics Expert Platform (BelPEP)



SOMNIFÈRES ET CALMANTS, PENSEZ D'ABORD AUX AUTRES SOLUTIONS.



BOUGER, MANGER SAINEMENT, SE RELAXER...

LES SOMNIFÈRES ET LES CALMANTS
DOIVENT ÊTRE LA TOUTE DERNIÈRE OPTION.



STOP OU ENCORE ?

le point sur votre consommation

A propos de Stop ou Encore

A propos d'Infor-Drogues

Aide et info. Pour aller plus loin

Faites le test



Alcool

Cannabis

Ecstasy

Cocaïne

Speed

Somnifères

Internet

Jeux d'argent

Stop ou encore? Somnifères

Ces questionnaires sont destinés à un public d'adultes. D'autres normes sont d'application si vous avez moins de dix-huit ans, et les résultats seraient pas conséquent faussés.

Ce test est destiné aux personnes qui prennent des calmants ou des somnifères de déterminer si leur consommation est problématique. Différents conseils sont apportés en fonction du score obtenu.

Le questionnaire ne tient aucun compte ni de facteurs personnels tels que le genre ou l'âge, ni d'une éventuelle évolution de la consommation. La consommation de calmants ou somnifères peut vous causer des démêlés avec la police ou la justice et avoir un impact négatif sur votre vie professionnelle et sociale ou sur vos études. Ces aspects ne sont cependant pas envisagés ici.

1. A quelle fréquence prenez-vous des somnifères ou des tranquillisants?

- ☐ Jamais
- ☐ De temps à autres
- ☐ Une fois par mois
- ☐ Une fois par semaine
- ☐ Plusieurs fois par semaine
- ☐ Tous les jours



Paramètres de confidentialité

Psychotropes : quels risques pour vos patients ? Ensemble, favorisons un usage adapté

Vous êtes



Médecin généraliste



Pharmacienne



Psychologue

Stopp & Start

European Geriatric Medicine (2023) 14:625–632

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41999-023-00777-y>

RESEARCH PAPER



STOPP/START criteria for potentially inappropriate prescribing in older people: version 3

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1st version 2010

And the patient ?

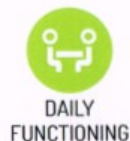
- Exploring wishes of the patient
- Answering to his fears
- Creating a partnership (patient-partner)



MY POSITIVE HEALTH

- Taking care of yourself
- Knowing your limitations
- Knowledge of health
- Managing time
- Managing money
- Being able to work
- Being able to ask for help

- Social contacts
- Being taken seriously
- Doing fun things together
- Having the support from others
- Sense of belonging
- Doing meaningful things
- Being interested in society



DAILY
FUNCTIONING



PARTICIPATION



BODILY FUNCTIONS

- Feeling healthy
- Feeling fit
- No physical complaints and/or pain
- Sleeping
- Eating
- Sexuality
- Physical condition
- Physical activity



MENTAL
WELL-BEING

- Being able to remember things
- Being able to concentrate
- Being able to communicate
- Being cheerful
- Accepting yourself
- Being able to handle change
- Feeling in control



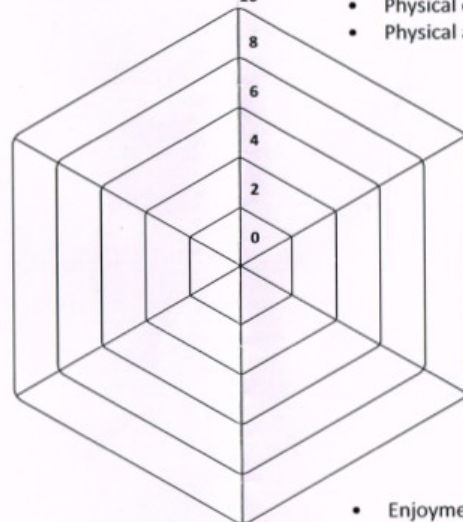
MEANINGFULNESS

- Having a meaningful life
- Having a zest for life
- Pursuing ideals
- Feeling confident
- Accepting life
- Being grateful
- Lifelong learning



QUALITY OF LIFE

- Enjoyment
- Being happy
- Feeling good
- Feeling well-balanced
- Feeling safe
- Intimacy
- Housing circumstances
- Having enough money



Something that is important to me is missing: _____



Practical tools



deprescribing.org

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Reducing medications safely to meet life's changes

Deprescribing research and guidelines support healthcare providers and patients in reducing or stopping medications that may be harmful or no longer needed.





Why is patient taking a BZRA?

If unsure, find out if history of anxiety, past psychiatrist consult, whether may have been started in hospital for sleep, or for grief reaction.

- Insomnia on its own OR insomnia where underlying comorbidities managed
For those ≥ 65 years of age: taking BZRA regardless of duration (avoid as first line therapy in older people)
For those 18-64 years of age: taking BZRA > 4 weeks

- Other sleeping disorders (e.g. restless legs)
- Unmanaged anxiety, depression, physical or mental condition that may be causing or aggravating insomnia
- Benzodiazepine effective specifically for anxiety
- Alcohol withdrawal

Engage patients (discuss potential risks, benefits, withdrawal plan, symptoms and duration)

Recommend Deprescribing

Continue BZRA

- Minimize use of drugs that worsen insomnia (e.g. caffeine, alcohol etc.)
- Treat underlying condition
- Consider consulting psychologist or psychiatrist or sleep specialist

Taper and then stop BZRA

(taper slowly in collaboration with patient, for example $\sim 25\%$ every two weeks, and if possible, 12.5% reductions near end and/or planned drug-free days)

- For those ≥ 65 years of age (strong recommendation from systematic review and GRADE approach)
- For those 18-64 years of age (weak recommendation from systematic review and GRADE approach)
- Offer behavioural sleeping advice; consider CBT if available (see reverse)

Monitor every 1-2 weeks for duration of tapering

Expected benefits:

- May improve alertness, cognition, daytime sedation and reduce falls

Withdrawal symptoms:

- Insomnia, anxiety, irritability, sweating, gastrointestinal symptoms (all usually mild and last for days to a few weeks)

Use non-drug approaches to manage insomnia

Use behavioral approaches and/or CBT (see reverse)

If symptoms relapse:

Consider

- Maintaining current BZRA dose for 1-2 weeks, then continue to taper at slow rate

Alternate drugs

- Other medications have been used to manage insomnia. Assessment of their safety and effectiveness is beyond the scope of this algorithm. See BZRA deprescribing guideline for details.

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Pottle K, Thompson W, Davies S, Grenier J, Sadowski C, Welch V, Holbrook A, Boyd C, Swenson JR, Ma A, Farrell B. Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for deprescribing benzodiazepine receptor agonists. Can Fam Physician 2018;64:339-51 (Eng), e209-24 (Fr)

This algorithm and accompanying advice support recommendations in the NICE guidance on the use of zaleplon, zolpidem and zopiclone for the short-term management of insomnia, and medicines optimisation. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, February 2019





BZRA Availability

BZRA	Strength
Alprazolam (Xanax [®]) ^T	0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg
Bromazepam (Lectopam [®]) ^T	1.5 mg, 3 mg, 6 mg
Chlordiazepoxide ^C	5 mg, 10 mg, 25 mg
Clonazepam (Rivotril [®]) ^T	0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg
Clorazepate (Tranxene [®]) ^C	3.75 mg, 7.5 mg, 15 mg
Diazepam (Valium [®]) ^T	2 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg
Flurazepam (Dalmane [®]) ^C	15 mg, 30 mg
Lorazepam (Ativan [®]) ^{T,S}	0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg
Nitrazepam (Mogadon [®]) ^T	5 mg, 10 mg
Oxazepam (Serax [®]) ^T	10 mg, 15 mg, 30 mg
Temazepam (Restoril [®]) ^C	15 mg, 30 mg
Triazolam (Halcion [®]) ^T	0.125 mg, 0.25 mg
Zopiclone (Imovane [®] , Rhovane [®]) ^T	5mg, 7.5mg
Zolpidem (Sublinox [®]) ^S	5mg, 10mg

T = tablet, C = capsule, S = sublingual tablet

BZRA Side Effects

- BZRAs have been associated with:**
 - physical dependence, falls, memory disorder, dementia, functional impairment, daytime sedation and motor vehicle accidents
- Risks increase in older persons**

Engaging patients and caregivers

Patients should understand:

- The rationale for deprescribing (associated risks of continued BZRA use, reduced long-term efficacy)
- Withdrawal symptoms (insomnia, anxiety) may occur but are usually mild, transient and short-term (days to a few weeks)
- They are part of the tapering plan, and can control tapering rate and duration

Tapering doses

- No published evidence exists to suggest switching to long-acting BZRAs reduces incidence of withdrawal symptoms or is more effective than tapering shorter-acting BZRAs
- If dosage forms do not allow 25% reduction, consider 50% reduction initially using drug-free days during latter part of tapering, or switch to lorazepam or oxazepam for final taper steps

Behavioural management

Primary care:

- Go to bed only when sleepy
- Do not use bed or bedroom for anything but sleep (or intimacy)
- If not asleep within about 20-30 min at the beginning of the night or after an awakening, exit the bedroom
- If not asleep within 20-30 min on returning to bed, repeat #3
- Use alarm to awaken at the same time every morning
- Do not nap
- Avoid caffeine after noon
- Avoid exercise, nicotine, alcohol, and big meals within 2 hrs of bedtime

Institutional care:

- Pull up curtains during the day to obtain bright light exposure
- Keep alarm noises to a minimum
- Increase daytime activity & discourage daytime sleeping
- Reduce number of naps (no more than 30 mins and no naps after 2 pm)
- Offer warm decaf drink, warm milk at night
- Restrict food, caffeine, smoking before bedtime
- Have the resident toilet before going to bed
- Encourage regular bedtime and rising times
- Avoid waking at night to provide direct care
- Offer backrub, gentle massage

Using CBT

What is cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)?

- CBT includes 5-6 educational sessions about sleep/insomnia, stimulus control, sleep restriction, sleep hygiene, relaxation training and support

Does it work?

- CBT has been shown in trials to improve sleep outcomes with sustained long-term benefits

Who can provide it?

- Clinical psychologists usually deliver CBT, however, others can be trained or can provide aspects of CBT education; self-help programs are available

How can providers and patients find out about it?

- Some resources can be found here: <https://mysleepwell.ca/>

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Practical tools



Santé publique
Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire
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Flash VIG-news : Programme de sevrage aux benzodiazépines prolongé jusqu'au 31 décembre 2024

Date: 03/09/2024

Depuis le 1^{er} février 2023, un programme de sevrage peut être proposé à certains patients ambulatoires qui prennent des benzodiazépines ou Z-drugs. Ce programme est basé sur des préparations magistrales de gélules suite à la prescription du médecin. Le projet, qui devait initialement durer un an, est prolongé jusqu'au 31 décembre 2024.



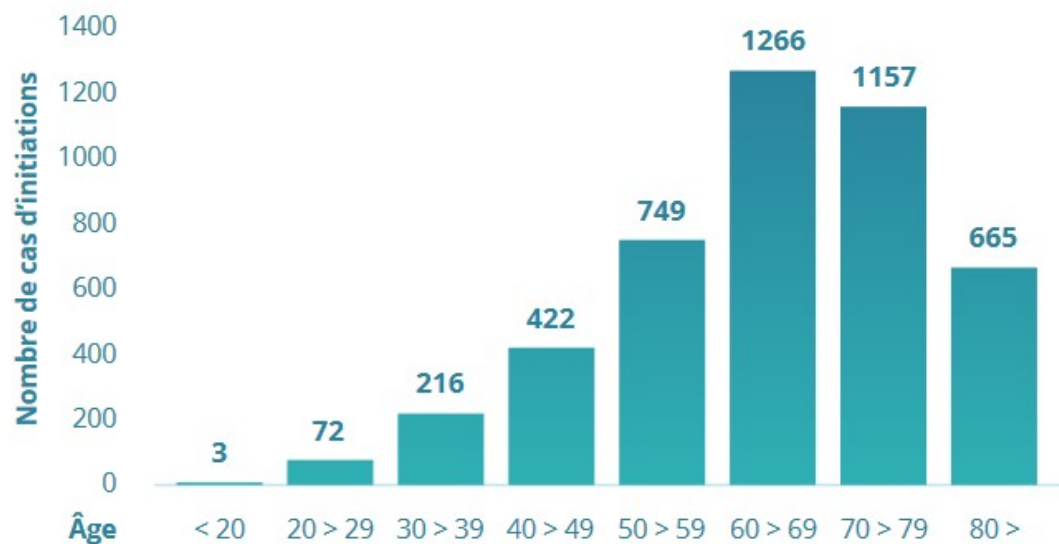
Sevrage des benzodiazépines par prescription magistrale

Résultats préliminaires du projet INAMI*

En 61 semaines (du 01-02-2023 au 02-04-2024)

6527 personnes ont intégré le programme

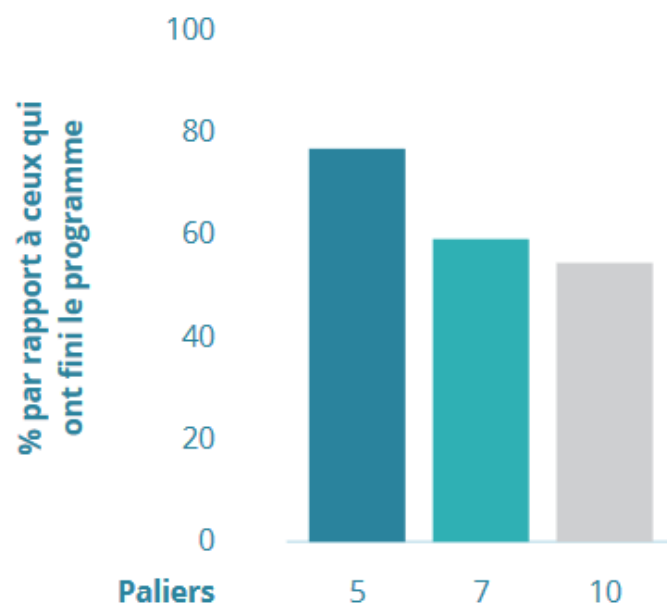
Répartition selon les classes d'âge | données 12-2023



69% des personnes ayant
intégré le programme ont
60 ans et +.



Patients n'ayant pas repris de benzo ou produit apparenté 6 mois après la fin du programme



- ✓ 75 à 80 % des patients qui ont suivi un programme complet à 5 paliers (i.e. entre 5 et 7 préparations) n'ont pas repris de benzodiazépine ou produit apparenté dans les 6 mois qui ont suivi leur dernière préparation dans le cadre du programme de sevrage.
- ✓ 60 % des patients qui ont suivi un programme à 7 paliers n'ont pas repris de benzodiazépine ou produit apparenté dans les 6 mois qui ont suivi leur dernière préparation dans le cadre du programme de sevrage.
- ✓ Enfin pour les patients qui ont suivi un programme à 10 paliers dans la cohorte considérée ici (dernière délivrance avant le 31 octobre 2023), 55% des patients n'ont pas repris de benzodiazépine ou produit apparenté dans les 6 mois qui ont suivi leur dernière préparation dans le cadre du programme de sevrage.

Conclusion : 35% des patients ont reçu l'ensemble des préparations du programme. Malgré un % de 65% de patients qui n'ont pas reçu l'ensemble des préparations du programme, le projet montre un taux de succès de 42% sur l'ensemble des patients.

* Le projet est toujours en cours : Nous recherchons toujours des médecins généralistes participants.

Conclusion

- A lot of work, a lot of time but together it could be possible
- Communication between all the actors
- Communication with the principal actor : the patient



Thank you

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