

Title: Assessing medication appropriateness in a long-term elderly care setting

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Abstract:

Background Incidence of preventable adverse drug events in long-term care facilities for the elderly is higher than that in ambulatory care. Methods The criteria were chosen on the basis of being recently updated, European, locally used and already validated by the source. The STOPP tool, consisting of 80 criteria defining inappropriate prescribing, was applied to a random sample of 25 patients to identify whether any of the medications administered to them could be discontinued. Statistical analysis for the data generated with the STOPP tool was carried out using the one-sample proportion test. Results Significant results obtained indicate that nine STOPP criteria (p-value < 0.05) were practised. At least one of these criteria directly affected 20 out of the 25 patients under review, and could have translated into medication-related problems. On average there were two STOPP criteria that were significantly practised on a single patient. Nineteen patients had at least one out of six STOPP (p-value < 0.05) criteria which needed more information for adequate evaluation. Conclusion Pharmacist interventions to identify inappropriate medications, in a long-term care facility for elderly patients, contribute to rational medication management. References 1. O'Mahony D, O'Sullivan D, Byrne S, O'Connor MN, Ryan C, Gallagher P. STOPP/START criteria for potentially inappropriate prescribing in older people: version 2. Age Ageing. 2015 Mar;44(2):213-8.