



Decreasing Anticholinergic Drugs in the Elderly

IPRO serves as the Medicare-designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for New York State. In March 2006 IPRO received CMS approval under the 8th Scope of Work to initiate and complete an extensive quality improvement project that will enhance the care provided to beneficiaries and guide the development and implementation of additional quality improvement efforts relating to the Prescription Drug Benefit. Prescription drug plans (PDPs) administering plans in New York are now invited to participate in this exciting quality improvement initiative.

This project seeks to reduce the prevalence of prescribing to seniors of potentially inappropriate drugs with anticholinergic properties. These drugs are of questionable clinical value, and frequently contribute to side effects in the elderly. Increasing the use of more appropriate agents has the potential to improve patient outcomes and to reduce overall health expenditures.

Profile of Quality Measures Targeting Anticholinergic Agents

Anticholinergic Drugs	Beers Criteria	HEDIS® DAE (2006)	HEDIS® DDE (2007)
Amitriptyline	1	0	B
Amoxapine	0	0	B
Atropine	1	1	F
Azatadine	0	0	F
Belladonna	1	1	F
Benztropine	0	0	F
Brompheniramine	0	0	F
Buclizine*	0	0	F
Carisoprodol	1	1	F
Chlordiazepoxide	1	1	0
Chlorpheniramine	1	0	F
Chlorzoxazone	1	1	F
Clemastine	0	0	F
Clidinium	1	1	F
Clomipramine	0	0	B
Cyclizine	0	0	F
Cyclobenzaprine	1	1	F
Cyproheptadine	1	1	F
Dexchlorpheniramine	1	1	F
Dicyclomine	1	1	F
Dimenhydrinate	0	0	F
Diphenhydramine	1	1	F
Disopyramide	1	0	0
Doxepin	1	0	B
Flavoxate	0	0	F
Glycopyrrolate	0	0	0
Homatropine	1	1	F
Hydroxyzine	1	1	F
Hyoscyamine	1	1	F

Key:

1 = Included in Criteria;

0 = Not Included in Criteria;

B = Present in Table DDE-B: Tricyclic Antidepressants - Potentially harmful drug-disease interactions in the elderly (DDE);

F = Present in Table DDE-F: Anticholinergic Agents - Potentially harmful drug-disease interactions in the elderly (DDE).

* = Presently not available in the United States



Profile of Quality Measures Targeting Anticholinergic Agents (continued)

Imipramine	0	0	B
l-hyoscyamine	1	1	F
Meclizine	0	0	F
Metaxalone	1	1	F
Methocarbamol	1	1	F
Methscopolamine	1	0	0
Nortriptyline	0	0	B
Orphenadrine	1	1	F
Oxybutynin	1	0	F
Perphenazine	1	0	B
Prochlorperazine	0	0	F
Promethazine	1	1	F
Propantheline	1	1	F
Protriptyline	0	0	B
Scopolamine	1	1	F
Tolterodine	0	0	F
Trihexyphenidyl	0	0	F
Trimethobenzamide	1	1	F
Trimipramine	0	0	B
Tripelennamine	1	1	F
Tripolidine	0	0	F

Key:

1 = Included in Criteria;

0 = Not Included in Criteria;

B = Present in Table DDE-B: Tricyclic Antidepressants - Potentially harmful drug-disease interactions in the elderly (DDE);

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References:

Beers Criteria - Fick D, Cooper J, Wade W, et al. Updating the beers criteria for potentially inappropriate medication use in older adults. Arch Intern Med. Oct 2003 Vol 163: 2716-2724.

HEDIS DAE (2006) - HEDIS. Drugs to be avoided in the elderly (DAE). HEDIS®. 2006 Vol 2: 170 - 172.

HEDIS DDE (2007) - National Committee for Quality Assurance. Potentially harmful drug-disease interactions in the elderly (DDE) draft. National Committee for Quality Assurance. 2006: 1-6.

Medication list current as of 6/01/06

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