

# **Optimization of Pharmacotherapy Management: Deprescribing in CKD**

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# Disclosures

- None



Disclosures

# Learning Objectives



Learning  
Objectives

- Describe the potential harms of polypharmacy in patients with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) and End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD)
- Identify medications with poor evidence for efficacy and safety in the CKD/ESKD population
- Apply current tools and approaches to medication deprescribing in the CKD/ESKD population

# Case of Mrs P



Case

- 84-year-old on HD for the past 6 months secondary to DM
- Widow – living alone
- 3 Falls last year
- Sometimes confused and forgets things
- Children worried about mom

# Mrs P's Medications



Case

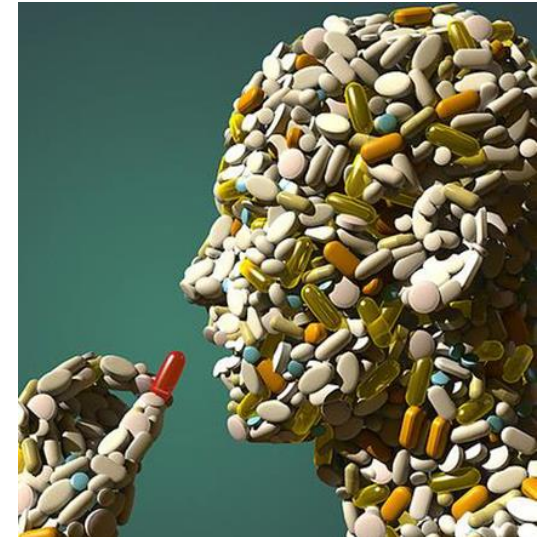
- ASA 81mg daily
- Dimenhydrinate 50mg qhs
- Lorazepam 1mg qhs\*
- Warfarin as directed\*
- Metoprolol 50mg bid\*
- Amlodipine 10mg daily\*
- Ramipril 5mg daily\*
- Ginkgo tabs daily\*
- Insulin 30/70 12u sc bid
- Furosemide 40mg bid\*
- Atorvastatin 40mg daily\*
- Dextromethorphan syrup
- Lansoprazole 30mg daily\*
- Oxybutynin XL 10mg daily\*
- Vitamin B12 1200mcg daily\*
- Potassium Supplement daily\*
- Calcium/Vitamin D bid\*
- Darbepoietin 10mcg iv weekly
- Iron sucrose 100mg iv once monthly

\* Medications dispensed in patient-friendly pack

# Polypharmacy

## Polypharmacy

- Polypharmacy means “many drugs”
  - 5 or more drugs
- Polypharmacy also means inappropriate choices of medications or doses



# Consequences of Polypharmacy

Polypharmacy

## On people

- decreased adherence, drug-drug interactions, and adverse drug reactions
- 68% report AE after hospital discharge (72% due to medication )



# Consequences of Polypharmacy

## Polypharmacy

### On health care utilization

- hospital admissions (preventable, drug-related)

### On cost

- 4.4 billion dollars (Canadian) spent from Public Drug Programs on drugs for elderly
- 20% of health care spending





# Risk Factors for Polypharmacy

## Polypharmacy

- Age
- Multi-morbidity
- Acute hospitalization
- Health care visits
- Multiple providers



Hajjar ER, Am J Geriatr Pharmacother. 2007;5(4):345-51

Betteridge TM, et al. Int Med J 2012;42(2):208-11.

Jorgensen T et al. Ann Pharmacother. 2001;35:1004-1009.



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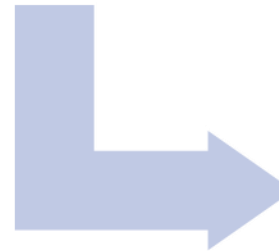
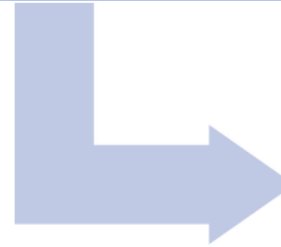
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**Polypharmacy**

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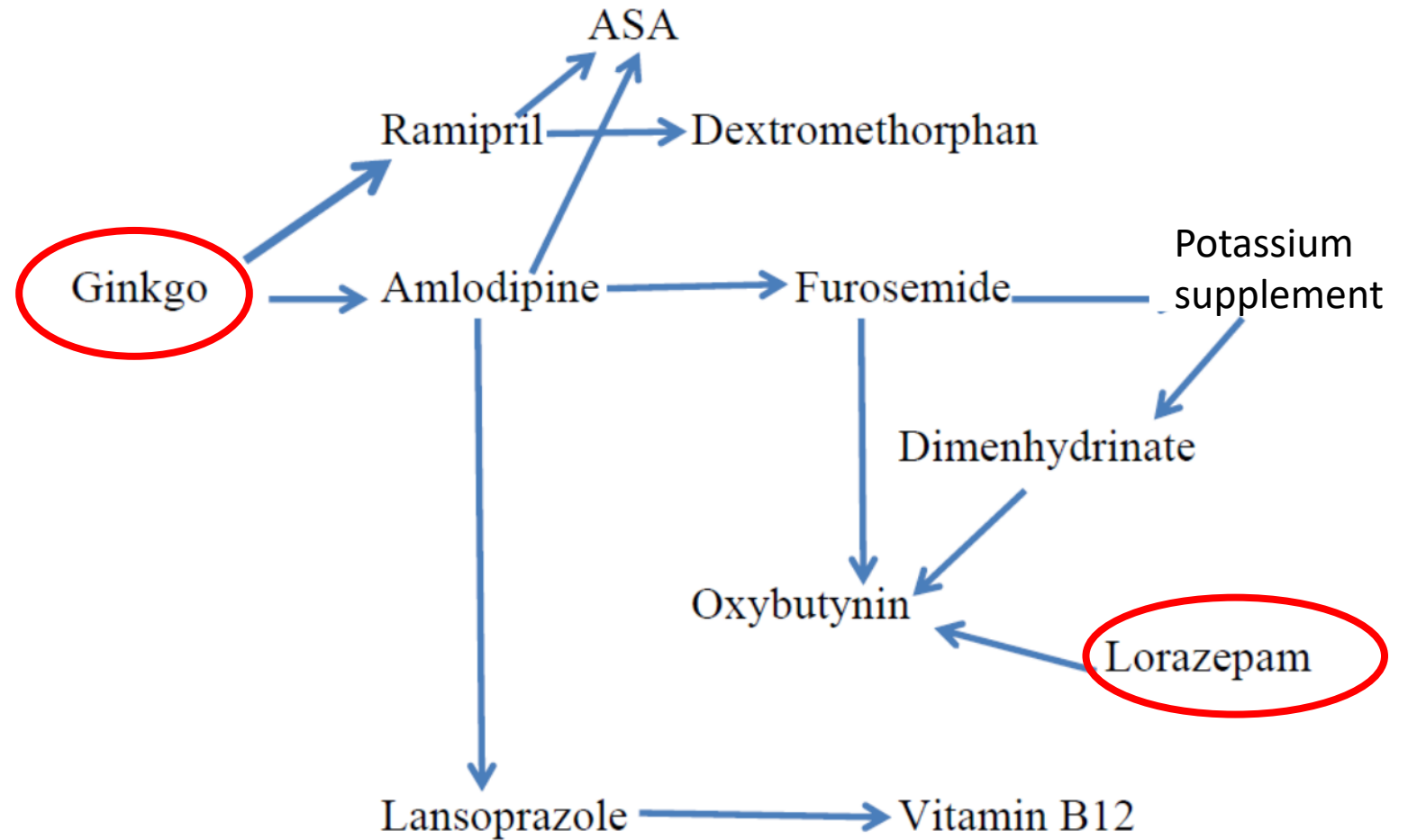
An adverse reaction is interpreted as a new disease so another medication is added

An adverse reaction is interpreted as new disease and yet another new medication is started



# Mrs P's Prescribing Cascade

Polypharmacy





Question

**What is the average number of medications a dialysis patient takes daily?**

- A. 3-5 medications
- B. 6-10 medications
- C. 11-15 medications
- D. > 15 medications

## Polypharmacy

# Polypharmacy In CKD

- USRDS 1998- HD pts were taking a median of 9 medications/day
- USRDS -redone in 2004- 12 median medications/day
- University Health Network (Toronto) HD unit (2015):
  - Median of 12 medications/day



# Medication Therapy Management

1

- **Medication Reconciliation**
  - Generate accurate list

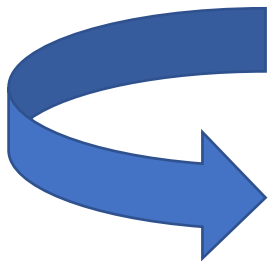
2

- **Medication Review**
  - Review of list by advanced practitioner to identify medication-related problems

3

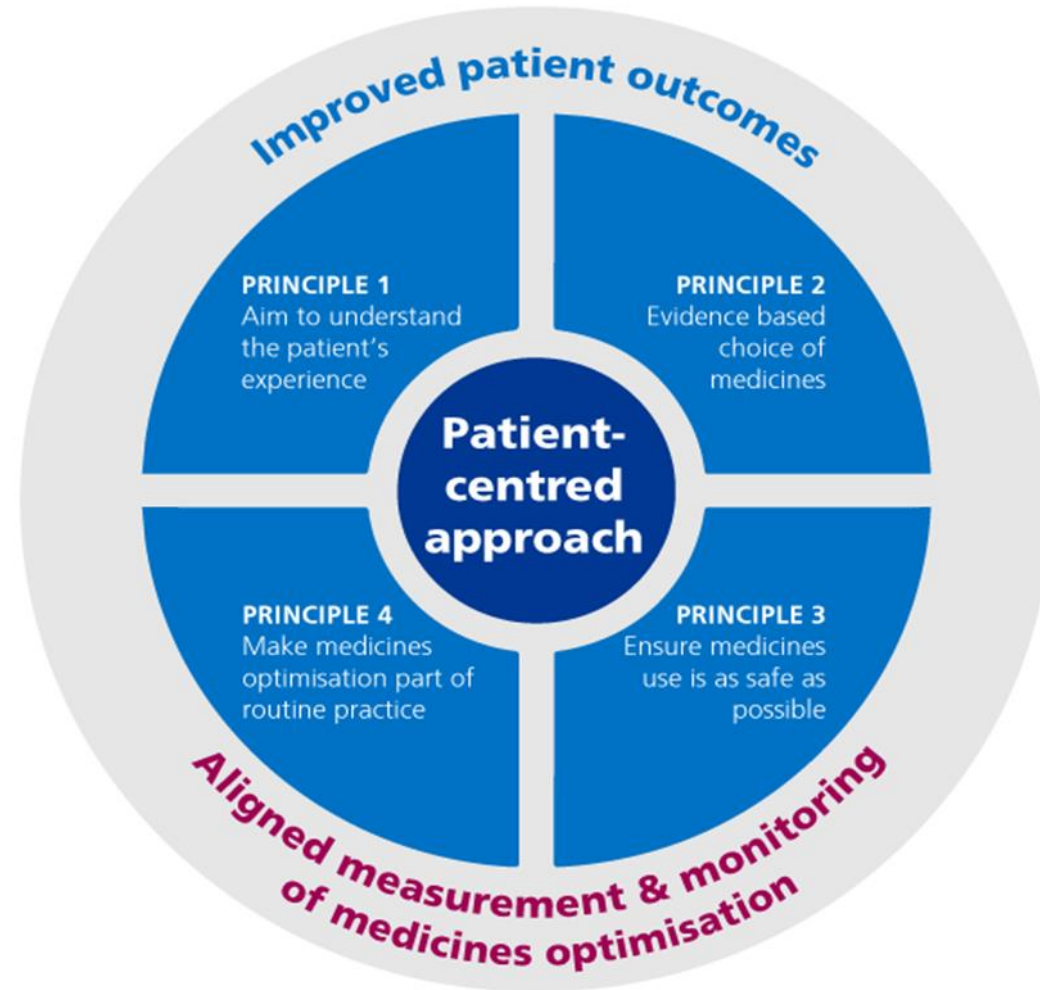
- **Issue Resolution**
  - Escalated to prescriber to resolve medication-related problems

**DEPRESCRIBING**





# Optimization of Medications





Question

## Question

What is the most common medication used by dialysis patients?

- A. Proton Pump Inhibitors
- B. Benzodiazepines
- C. Statins
- D. Opioids



Question

## Question

What is the most expensive drug used by dialysis patients?

- A. Proton Pump Inhibitors
- B. Insulin
- C. Statins
- D. Opioids

Polypharmacy

# A Province-Wide, Cross-Sectional Study Of Demographics And Medication Use Of Patients In Hemodialysis Units Across Ontario



**Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of Patients Receiving a Study Medication (N = 3094).**

|  | N          | %    |
|--|------------|------|
| Characteristic                                   |            |      |
| Age, years                                       |            |      |
| Mean (SD)  | 76.5 (7.3) |      |
| Median (IQR)                                     | 76 (70-82) |      |
| ≤65 years  | 121        | 3.9  |
| 66-69 years                                      | 536        | 17.3 |
| 70-74 years                                      | 646        | 20.9 |
| 75-79 years                                      | 697        | 22.5 |
| 80-84 years                                      | 622        | 20.1 |
| 85-89 years                                      | 335        | 10.8 |
| 90+ years  | 137        | 4.4  |
| Sex  |            |      |
| Women  | 1373       | 44.4 |
| Men  | 1721       | 55.6 |
| Location <sup>c</sup>                            |            |      |
| Urban  | 2885       | 93.2 |
| Rural  | 209        | 6.8  |
| Long-term care residence                         | 277        | 9.0  |
| Neighborhood income quintile <sup>d</sup>        |            |      |
| 1 (lowest)                                       | 779        | 25.2 |
| 2  | 690        | 22.4 |
| 3  | 592        | 19.2 |
| 4  | 536        | 17.4 |
| 5 (highest)                                      | 489        | 15.8 |
| Comorbidities                                    |            |      |
| Coronary artery disease (including angina)       | 1911       | 61.8 |
| Diabetes mellitus                                | 1628       | 52.6 |
| Heart failure                                    | 1592       | 51.5 |
| Chronic lung disease                             | 1298       | 42.0 |
| Arrhythmia (bradyarrhythmia and tachyarrhythmia) | 907        | 29.3 |
| Atrial fibrillation/flutter                      | 667        | 21.6 |
| Myocardial infarction                            | 519        | 16.8 |
| Peripheral vascular disease                      | 474        | 15.3 |
| Chronic liver disease                            | 344        | 11.1 |
| Stroke or transient ischemic attack              | 226        | 7.3  |
| Coronary revascularization                       | 152        | 4.9  |
| Aortic aneurysm repair or bypass                 | 33         | 1.1  |
| Renal transplant                                 | 11         | 0.4  |

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**Median Dialysis  
Vintage- 4.2 years (2-5)**

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Median Dialysis  
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**Table 2. Medication and Health Care Use of Patients Receiving a Study Medication (N = 3094).**

| Characteristic                                      | N           | %     |
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| Medication use (of all medications in ODB)          |             |       |
| Number of unique drug names                         |             |       |
| Mean (SD)   | 11.3 (5.0)  |       |
| Median (IQR)  | 11 (8-14)   |       |
| ≤4 drug names                                       | 212         | 6.9   |
| 5-8 drug names                                      | 752         | 24.3  |
| 9-12 drug names                                     | 984         | 31.8  |
| 13-16 drug names                                    | 680         | 22.0  |
| 17+ drug names                                      | 466         | 15.1  |
| Study medication use (of 28 study medications only) |             |       |
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| Mean (SD)   | 5.4 (2.3)   |       |
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| 1-3 visits  | 712         | 23.0  |
| 4-6 visits  | 541         | 17.5  |
| 7-9 visits  | 369         | 11.9  |
| ≥10 visits  | 1270        | 41.0  |
| Prescriber information                              |             |       |
| Number of prescriber specialties <sup>b</sup>       |             |       |
| Mean (SD)   | 2.8 (1.3)   |       |
| Median (IQR)  | 3 (2-4)     |       |
| 1 specialty   | 391         | 12.7  |
| 2 specialties                                       | 1031        | 33.4  |
| 3+ specialties                                      | 1672        | 54.0  |
| Prescribing physician specialty <sup>a</sup>        |             |       |
| General practitioner                                | 1312        | 49.40 |
| Nephrologist  | 1189        | 44.80 |
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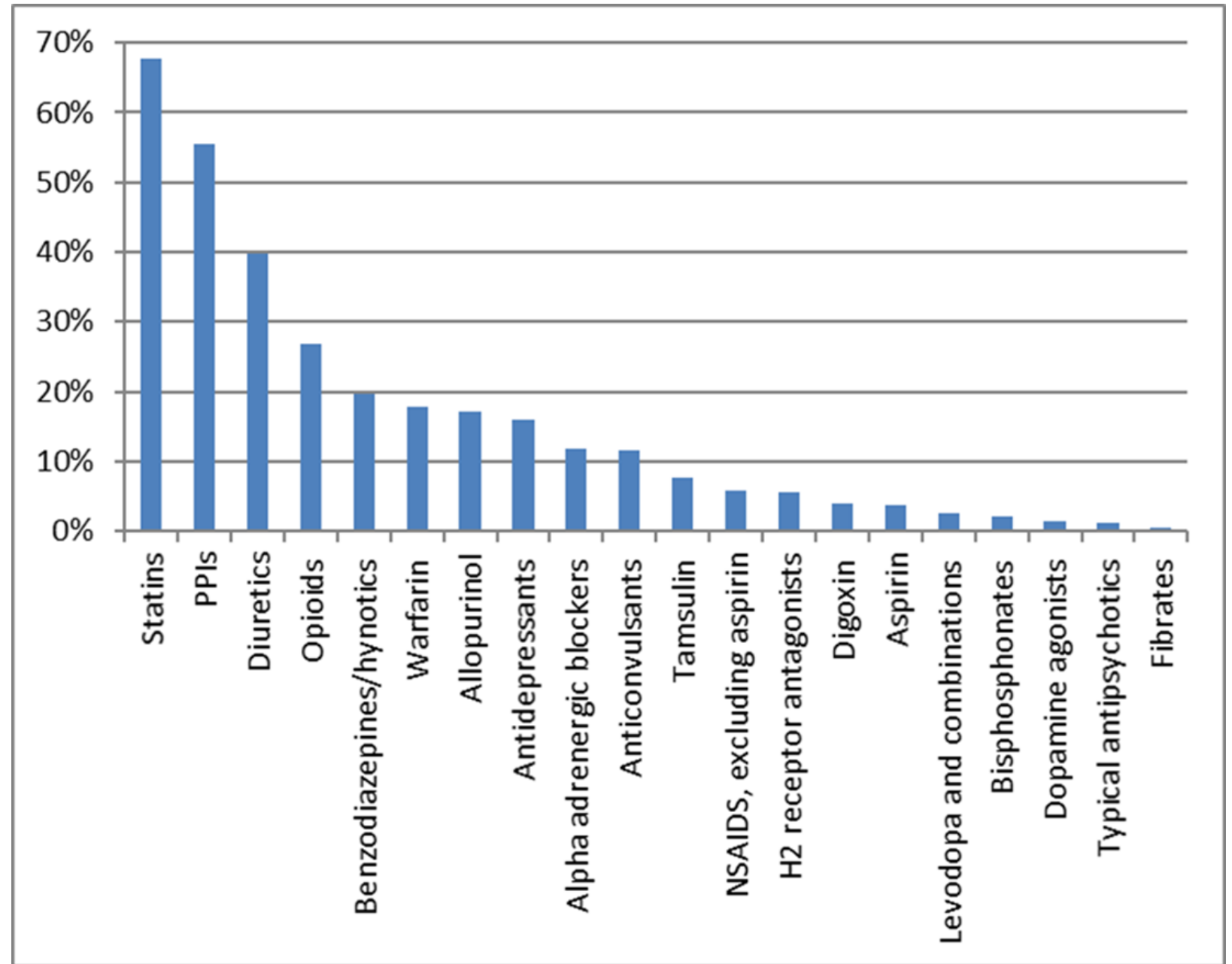
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# Percentage of Medication Use in HD Patients



# Annual Costs for Most Costly Study Medications

| <b>Study Medication</b>  | <b>Total Prescriptions</b> | <b>Total Annual Cost <sup>a</sup></b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Insulin                  | 6320                       | \$ 662,112                            |
| Proton pump inhibitors   | 31,847                     | \$ 433,093                            |
| Calcitriol               | 18,710                     | \$ 404,305                            |
| Statins                  | 35,771                     | \$ 384,073                            |
| Calcium channel blockers | 24,865                     | \$ 312,209                            |
| Beta blockers            | 29,789                     | \$ 228,950                            |
| Opioids                  | 8989                       | \$ 201,132                            |
| Oral antiglycemics       | 7937                       | \$ 164,476                            |
| Diuretics                | 20,230                     | \$ 141,529                            |
| ACE inhibitors           | 10,014                     | \$ 131,530                            |

<sup>a</sup>- calculated over one year

# A Province-Wide, Cross-Sectional Study Of Demographics And Medication Use Of Patients In Hemodialysis Units Across Ontario

## Polypharmacy

- Polypharmacy is frequent in HD patients.
- Strategies to **improve prescribing** and **deprescribing** ineffective medications warrant testing for better patient outcomes and reduced healthcare costs.





## Deprescribing

# Deprescribing

- “the process of tapering, stopping, discontinuing, or withdrawing drugs, with the goal of managing polypharmacy and improving outcomes”





## Deprescribing

# Why Deprescribe in Dialysis?

- Dialysis patients have high pill burden
  - Median of 12 medications per patient
- Evidence for efficacy of many therapies is lacking in this population
- Safety concerns for medications that are cleared by the kidney and not removed by dialysis
- No tools for deprescribing available for this population

**What medication would you most likely Deprescribe in your patients?**

**Question**

- A. ACE inhibitors
- B. Proton Pump Inhibitors
- C. Insulin
- D. Antidepressants



**Deprescribing**

# **Targeted Deprescribing in an Outpatient Hemodialysis Unit: A Quality Improvement Study to Decrease Polypharmacy**



## Deprescribing

# Methods

## Phase 1: Development of Deprescribing Tool

- Focus groups were conducted
- Literature search performed
- Reviewed 50 charts- medication lists
- Five target medications were selected based on:
  - Risk of harm with no known benefit
  - Little chance drug withdrawal
  - Unclear or no indication
  - Indication but unknown or minimal benefit
  - Benefit but side effect or safety issues



## Deprescribing

# Five Targeted Medications

- Diuretics\*
- PPIs
- Quinine
- Alpha-blockers
- Statins\*\*

\* Only for anuric patients

\*\* Primary Prevention in patients greater than 80 years of age

Medication specific algorithms were developed



## Deprescribing

# Methods

## Phase 2: Validation of Deprescribing Tool

- Face and content validity
  - Tool revised and retested on an iterative basis- total of 3 cycles
  - In consultation with 5 different nephrology team members, (15 different team members; 12 nephrologists, 2 pharmacists, 1 nurse practitioner).



**Deprescribing**

# Methods

## Phase 3: Implementation of Deprescribing Tool

- Prospective Observational Pilot Study
- Patients receiving HD at Toronto General Hospital between May 2014 and March 2015 were included

# Methods

## Phase 3: Implementation of Deprescribing Tool



Collect BPMH\*, Identify Target Medication, Apply Algorithm, Inform Team, Consent Patient



Communicate with patient the plan, monitor as per algorithm



Follow up 6 months later

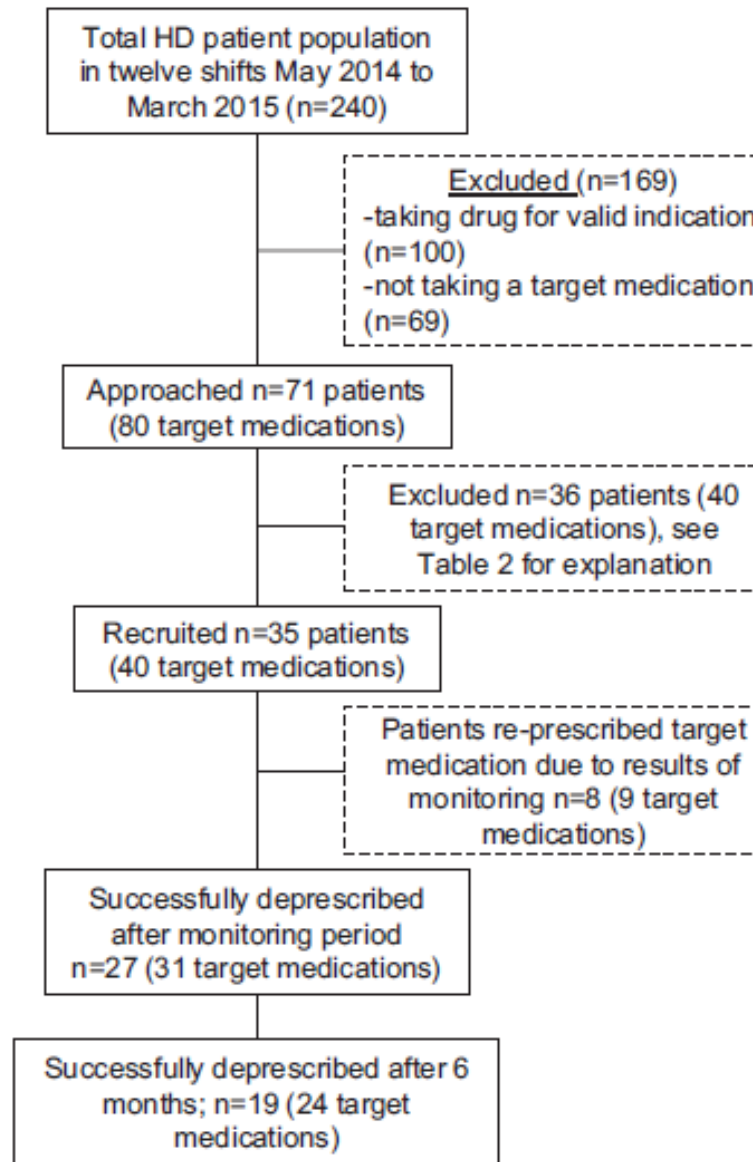




**Deprescribing**

# **RESULTS**

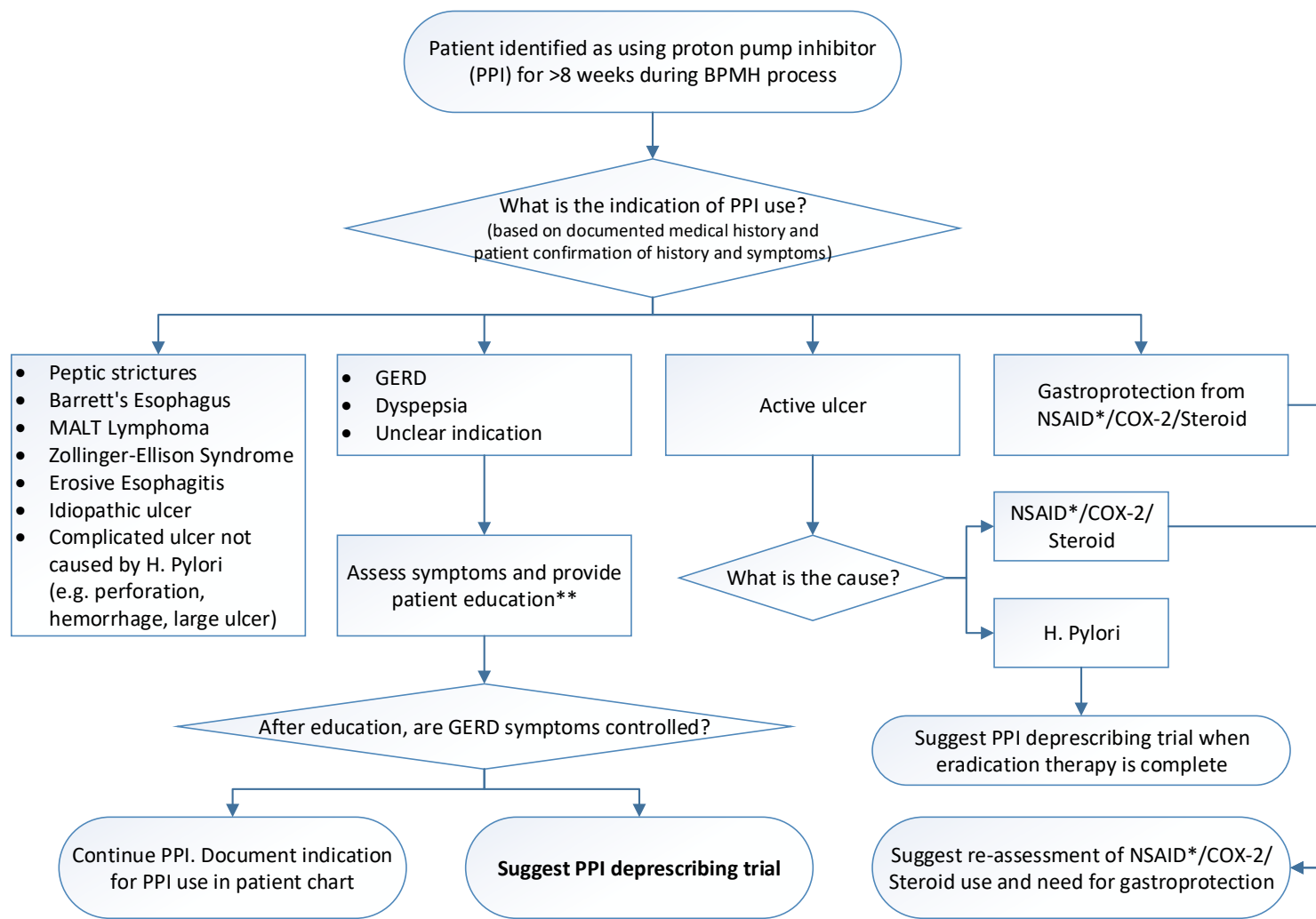
# Selection of Patients



# Baseline Demographics

| Characteristic  | Total (n=35)          |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Age (y)</b><br>Mean $\pm$ SD (Range)                     | 65 $\pm$ 16.5 (33-92) |
| <b>Gender</b>   | 21 males, 14 females  |
| <b>Dialysis Vintage (months)</b><br>Median                  | 40 (23.2, 57.2)       |
| <b>Total Number of Medications</b><br>Mean $\pm$ SD (Range) | 13.4 $\pm$ 4.3        |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>  |                       |
| Hypertension  | 31                    |
| Diabetes Mellitus   | 21                    |
| Cardio Vascular Disease                                     | 21                    |

# Deprescribing Algorithm for Proton Pump Use in Hemodialysis Patients



**PPI deprescribing trial:**

1. Record frequency of GERD symptoms over 2 weeks after identification during BPMH process (if applicable)

2. Taper PPI

1. If above standard dose, decrease to standard dose x 1 week.

a. Standard doses are:

1. Pantoprazole: 40mg

2. Lansoprazole and dexlansoprazole: 30mg

3. Esomeprazole, omeprazole and rabeprazole: 20mg

b. Reduce to 50% of standard dose x 2 weeks then discontinue

3. Counsel patient on PRN antacid options for quick relief or rebound symptoms as appropriate for the patient.

4. Record frequency of GERD symptoms and PRN antacid use in 2 weeks post-intervention and compare to pre-intervention.

1. If frequency of symptoms reduced, discontinue PPI permanently

2. If frequency of symptoms increased:

a. Consider H2RA:

• Ranitidine 150mg po qhs

• Famotidine 10mg po qhs (maximum 20mg po qhs in dialysis)

a. Consider re-initiating PPI at standard dose

1. Document result of PPI discontinuation trial in patient chart

**Re-assessment of NSAID/COX-2/steroid and gastroprotection:** Clinical judgment of whether NSAID\*/COX-2/steroid can be discontinued:

1. If NSAID\*/COX-2/steroid discontinued, **suggest discontinue PPI as per “PPI deprescribing trial” above**

2. If NSAID/COX-2/steroid to be continued, clinical judgment of whether gastroprotection is required

a. Gastroprotection required: continue PPI.

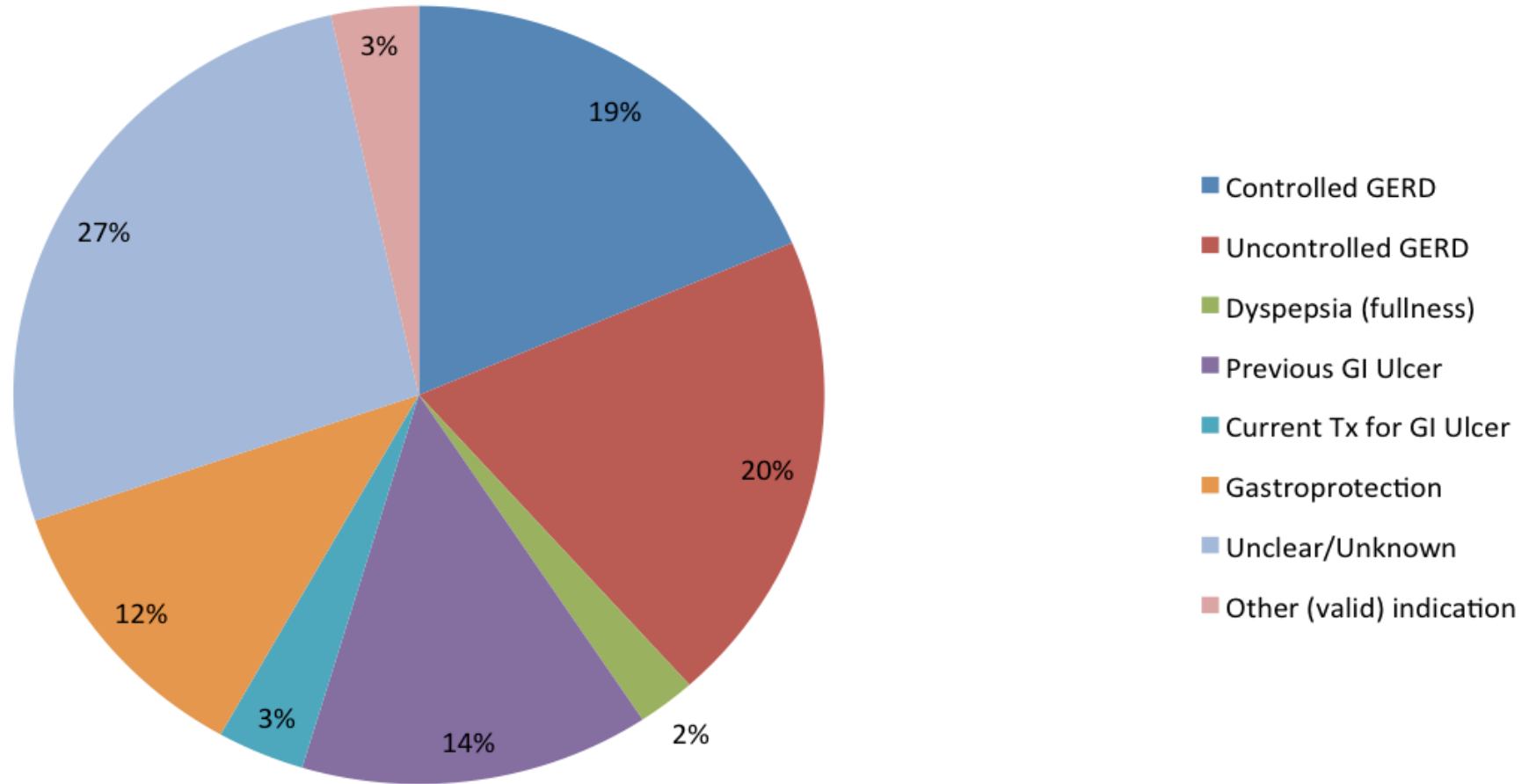
b. Gastroprotection not required: **suggest PPI deprescribing trial**

1. Document result of re-assessment in patient chart.

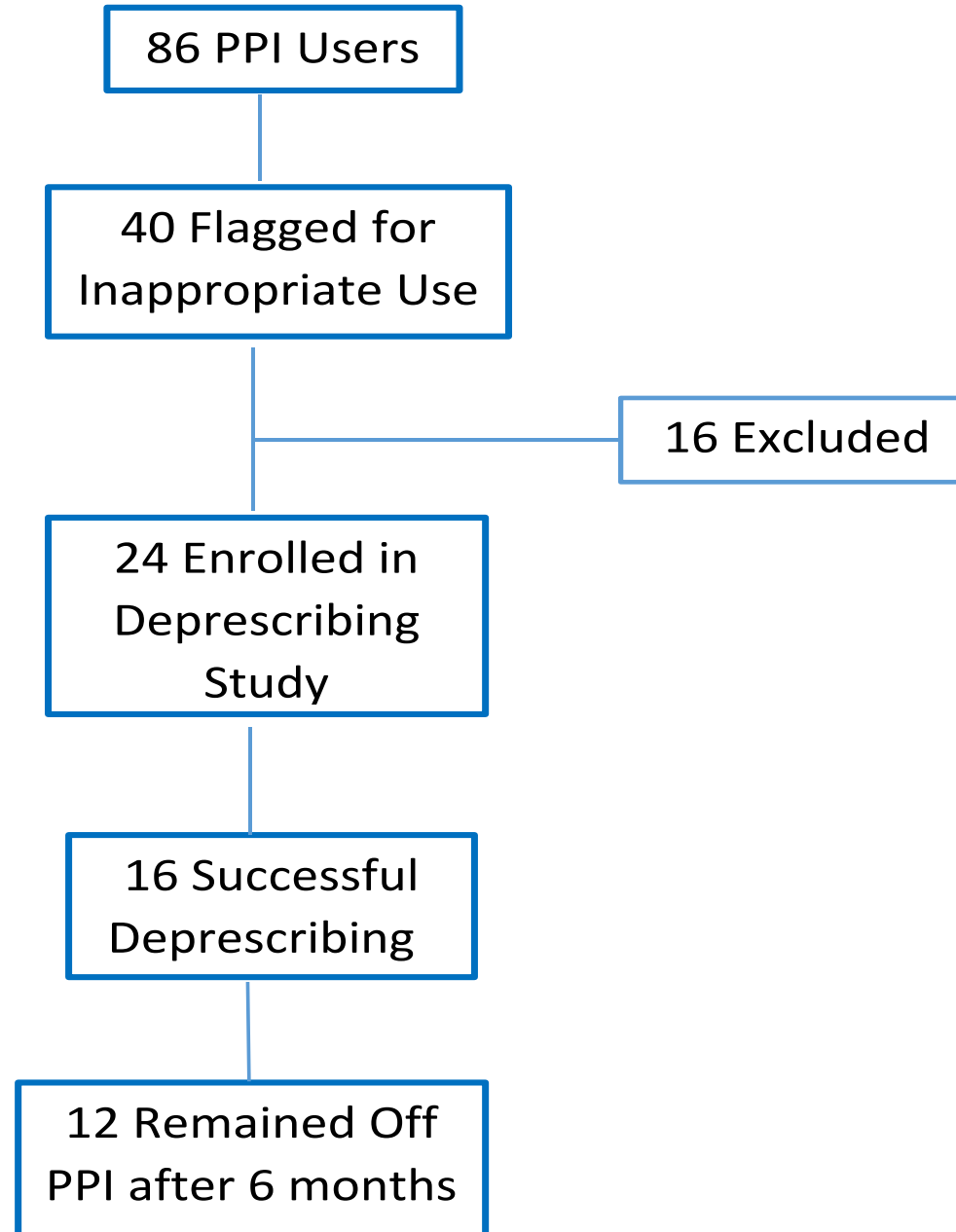
**Efficacy and safety parameter for deprescribing PPI:**

• Monitor frequency of symptoms as per “PPI deprescribing trial” above to ensure efficacy and safety of discontinuation

## Indication for PPI



# PPI – Deprescribing



# Monitoring for PPI

- **Two Weeks - Monitored for GERD symptoms**
  - 7 patients represcribed after 2 weeks (GERD symptoms)
  - 1 patient decreased dose
  
- **After 6 months**
  - 3 patients restarted because of GERD symptoms
  - 1 patient passed away



# Reasons for disagreement with deprescribing algorithm (n=36)

| Description of explanation   | Number of drugs not included in study |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Patient is still producing urine and nephrologist believes diuretic will make a difference in inter-dialytic weight gain (diuretic only) | 16                                    |
| Patient admitted to in-patient unit during deprescribing rounds  | 5                                     |
| Patient transferred to another facility during deprescribing rounds  | 4                                     |
| Patient on vacation during deprescribing rounds, or will be away during algorithm monitoring period.                                     | 3                                     |
| Patient anxious about stopping a medication  | 3                                     |
| Patient non-adherent to dialysis so would be difficult to monitor any changes after intervention   | 3                                     |
| Patient had cognitive impairment so unable to safely monitor GERD symptoms (PPI only)  | 2                                     |
| Patient was prescribed medication by another MD and nephrologist does not feel comfortable D/C the drug                                  | 2                                     |
| Patient is to receive transplant from living-donor next week and nephrologist does not want to make changes to medications               | 1                                     |
| Nephrologist believes quinine works for leg cramp indication (quinine only)  | 1                                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>40</b>                             |

Note: patients may be taking more than one target medication (e.g. statin with a PPI)

## Table 2: Summary of screened target medications

| Target Medication    | Number of target meds (n=171) | Number of medications flagged by algorithm to deprescribe (n=71) | Number of medications enrolled in deprescribing trial (n=35) | Number medications successfully deprescribed (n=35) | Number of medications successfully deprescribed at 6 month (n=19) |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Quinine              | 5                             | 5  | 2  | 2   | 0 <sup>1</sup>  |
| Diuretics            | 31                            | 31   | 10   | 9   | 8 <sup>2</sup>  |
| Alpha-1 blockers     | 14                            | 3  | 3  | 3   | 3   |
| Statins              | 95                            | 1  | 1  | 1   | 1   |
| PPI                  | 86                            | 40   | 24   | 16  | 12 <sup>3</sup>   |
| <b>Total (drugs)</b> | <b>231</b>                    | <b>80</b>  | <b>40</b>  | <b>31</b>   | <b>25</b>   |

<sup>1</sup>One patient passed away after 5 months. The other patient was re-prescribed after 5 months.

<sup>2</sup>One patient restarted taking diuretic because of miscommunication with family member.

<sup>3</sup>One patient passed away after 5 months. This is the same patient who was deprescribed quinine.

**Note:** patients may be taking more than one target medication (e.g. statin with a PPI)

# Results - Endpoints



## Deprescribing

- **Primary endpoint:**
  - 31/40 (77%) medications were successfully deprescribed.
- **Secondary endpoints:**
  - The average number of medications per day decreased from  $13.4 \pm 4.3$  to  $12.7 \pm 4.4$  (n=35) after the deprescribing trial.
  - Patient safety and satisfaction

# Limitations



## Deprescribing

- Small sample size, single center
- PPI indication often unclear– based on patient information and chart
- Patient may continue to use medication at home
- A new medication may be prescribed during deprescribing trial

# Conclusion



**Deprescribing**

- Validate and implement a safe and practical tool to deprescribe 5 specific drugs for HD patients
- Helped guide clinical practice- especially for trainees
- Increased awareness of inappropriate medication use

# Future Studies

**Deprescribing**



**Can-SOLVE**  
**CKD Network**

The Canadians Seeking Solutions and  
Innovations to Overcome Chronic  
Kidney Disease

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research

**SPOR**

*Putting Patients First* 

# Development and Validation of A Deprescribing Toolkit



**Deprescribing**

- ✓ Deprescribing Algorithm (for clinicians)
- ✓ Evidence Table (for clinicians)
- ✓ Monitoring Tool (for clinicians)
- ✓ Patient Information Toolkit (for patients):
  - ✓ video + bulletin

## Medications for Deprescribing

- Statins
- PPIs
- Quinine
- Alpha Blockers
- Diuretics
- Prokinetic Agents
- Gabapentinoids
- Allopurinol
- Benzodiazepines/Z-drugs



## Deprescribing

# Development of Each Algorithm

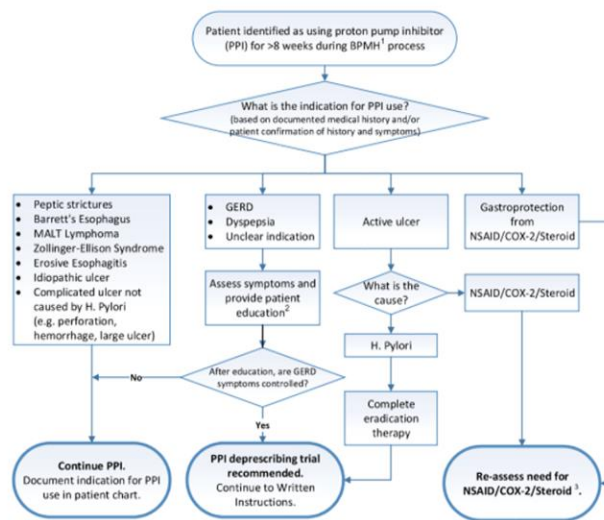
- Formal Literature Search completed for each medication
  - Safety
  - Efficacy
  - Monitoring
  - Deprescribing



# Algorithm (example: PPIs)

Proton Pump Inhibitor Deprescribing Algorithm [Page 1 of 2]

## Flow Chart for Deprescribing Proton Pump Inhibitors in Hemodialysis Patients



<sup>1</sup> BPMH: Best Possible Medication History

<sup>2</sup> Assessment of Symptoms and Patient Education:

Document GI symptoms that patient experiences and provide education as appropriate:

- For GERD symptoms (reflux, heartburn):
  - Educate the patient on non-pharmacological strategies to manage these symptoms (e.g. avoid acidic foods, alcohol & caffeine; quit smoking; avoid laying down after meals)
- For dyspepsia symptoms (feeling of fullness):
  - Educate patient on ways to avoid these symptoms (e.g. eating smaller meals)
  - Advise patient that PPIs are not effective in managing these symptoms and inform them of benefits of deprescribing and/or alternative agents for management of dyspepsia symptoms

<sup>3</sup> If continued NSAID/COX-2/Steroid use is required, continue PPI. If no longer required, suggest PPI deprescribing trial.

Proton Pump Inhibitor Deprescribing Algorithm [Page 2 of 2]

## Written Instructions for Deprescribing Proton Pump Inhibitors in Hemodialysis Patients

1. Educate patient on the rationale for deprescribing: the risks/concerns, benefits, deprescribing plan, symptoms and duration.
  - a. See Patient Information Tools (info sheet and video) included.
2. **Baseline Monitoring<sup>1</sup>**: Record frequency of GERD symptoms (if applicable) over 2 weeks prior to beginning deprescribing trial.
  - a. See Patient Information Tools (info sheet and video) included.
3. Taper PPI.
 

**Note:** If symptoms return, use a longer tapering schedule.

  - a. If above standard dose, decrease to standard dose over 2-4 weeks.
    - i. Standard daily doses are:
      1. Pantoprazole: 40mg
      2. Lansoprazole and dexlansoprazole: 30mg
      3. Esomeprazole, omeprazole and rabeprazole: 20mg
    - b. Reduce to 50% of standard dose over 2-4 weeks, then discontinue completely.
4. Provide patient education on non-pharmacologic options for symptom relief (see flow chart footnote #2).
  - a. Counsel patient on PRN antacid options for quick relief or rebound symptoms, as appropriate for the patient (e.g. Tums<sup>2</sup>, Amphojel<sup>3</sup>, Gaviscon<sup>3</sup>).
5. **Safety/Efficacy Monitoring<sup>1</sup>**: Record frequency of GERD symptoms and PRN antacid use in the 2-4 weeks post-intervention and compare to pre-intervention (i.e. baseline).
  - a. If frequency of symptoms decreased, discontinue PPI permanently
  - b. If frequency of symptoms increased:
    - i. Consider H2 Receptor Antagonist (H2RA):
      - Ranitidine 150mg PO QHS or PRN
      - Famotidine 10mg PO QHS<sup>4</sup> or PRN
    - ii. If symptoms are not resolved, discontinue H2RA and re-initiate PPI at standard dose
6. Document result of deprescribing trial in patient chart.

<sup>1</sup> Use the **Patient Monitoring Sheet** included with this algorithm for **Baseline Monitoring** and **Safety/Efficacy Monitoring** during the deprescribing trial, as per instructions above.

<sup>2</sup> Avoid in hypercalcemic patients.

<sup>3</sup> Aluminum-free formulations only.

<sup>4</sup> Maximum 20mg PO QHS in dialysis.

# Monitoring Tool (example: PPI)

Appendix 4 - Monitoring Sheets

Study ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Proton Pump Inhibitor Deprescribing Monitoring Form

Algorithm recommended deprescribing?  No  Yes Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did the patient consent to the study?  No  Yes Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medical team accepted deprescribing?  No  Yes Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Patient accepted deprescribing?  No  Yes Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of drug: \_\_\_\_\_ Starting dose: \_\_\_\_\_

Indication: \_\_\_\_\_

### Baseline Monitoring

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

|                       | Frequency of GERD symptoms (Past week) | Comments |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| Week 1<br>Date: _____ |  |          |
| Week 2<br>Date: _____ |  |          |

Continue with deprescribing?  No  Yes

### Safety and Efficacy Monitoring\*

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

|                       | Frequency of GERD symptoms (Past week) | Frequency of PRN antacid use (Past week) | Comments |
|-----------------------|--|--|----------|
| Week 1<br>Date: _____ |  |  |          |
| Week 2<br>Date: _____ |  |  |          |
| Week 3<br>Date: _____ |  |  |          |
| Week 4<br>Date: _____ |  |  |          |
| Week 5<br>Date: _____ |  |  |          |
| Week 6<br>Date: _____ |  |  |          |

Success deprescribing?  No  Yes

End Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Dose: \_\_\_\_\_

Adverse Events Reported?  No  Yes (see reverse for tracking form)

Appendix 4 - Monitoring Sheets

Study ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Adverse Event Reporting:

| Severity   | Related to Study?   | Action Taken   | Outcome of AE   | Expected          |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------|
| 1 = Mild<br>2 = Moderate<br>3 = Severe<br>4 = Life Threatening | 0 = Not related<br>1 = Unlikely<br>2 = Possibly<br>3 = Probably<br>4 = Definitely | 0 = None<br>1 = Dose change<br>2 = Medical intervention<br>3 = Hospital<br>4 = Resumed initial dose<br>5 = Other | 1 = Resolved<br>2 = Resolved w/ minor sequelae<br>3 = Resolved w/ major sequelae<br>4 = Ongoing treatment<br>5 = Condition worsening<br>6 = Death | 1 = Yes<br>2 = No |

| Description of Adverse Event | Start Date | Stop Date | Severity | Related? | Action | Outcome | Expected? |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|---------|-----------|
|                              |            |           |          |          |        |         |           |
|                              |            |           |          |          |        |         |           |
|                              |            |           |          |          |        |         |           |
|                              |            |           |          |          |        |         |           |

### Additional notes:

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# Evidence Table (example: PPIs)

## Evidence Supporting Deprescribing of

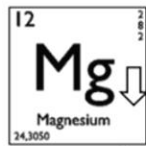

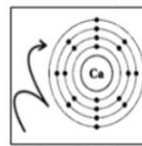
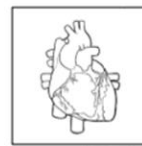
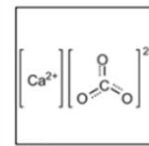
## Proton Pump Inhibitors

### in Hemodialysis Patients

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are usually prescribed for the treatment and prevention of the symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and gastrointestinal ulceration (1) (2). When treating these conditions, PPIs are usually indicated for up to 8 weeks and are rarely re-assessed (1) (3). Recent evidence from meta-analyses of observational studies has demonstrated an association with increased risk for developing *C. difficile* infections (4), pneumonia (5), fractures (6) and nutrient malabsorption (7) in the general population. Studies in hemodialysis (HD) patients specifically have associated long-term use of PPIs with lower serum magnesium levels (8-13), reduced bone mineral density (14), reduced calcium transport (15), increased arterial calcification risk (16) and reduced effectiveness of calcium phosphate binders (17) (see **Table 1** for summary of safety data relating to proton pump inhibitor use in hemodialysis patients).

Based on the risks associated with long-term PPI use, deprescribing of these agents should be considered in patients who have been using the agents for over 8 weeks. The algorithm outlines the assessment of patients using PPIs for over 8 weeks. Patients who have an indication for long-term PPI use will be continued on the agent. All other patients will be re-assessed based on their indication for PPI, their reported symptoms and a discontinuation trial would be considered as appropriate. Patients would be monitored for symptoms of GERD before and after discontinuation as per usual practice. Studies showing success rates for PPI deprescribing in the general population are summarized in **Table 2**.

### Summary of Safety Risks in Hemodialysis patients (see Table 1):

|   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
|  <p>Lower serum Mg</p> |  <p>Reduced Bone Mineral Density</p> |  <p>Reduced Calcium Transport</p> |  <p>Increased Arterial Calcification Risk</p> |  <p>↓ effectiveness of <math>\text{CaCO}_3 (\text{PO}_4)_2</math> binders</p> |
|---|---|--|--|--|

**Table 1. Safety and Efficacy Data Relating to Proton Pump Inhibitor Use in Hemodialysis Patients**

| Ref.  | Type of study + n  | Data   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Safety Concern: Lower Serum Magnesium</b>      |  |  |
| (8)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observational study, incl. cross-sectional &amp; 1-yr retrospective cohort study</li> <li>n= 399 HD patients</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serum magnesium levels were lower with PPI use than non-PPI use (2.39+/-0.36 vs. 2.56+/-0.39 mg/dL, P&lt;0.001). In the inflammatory state, a low serum magnesium level is a significant predictor of mortality in HD patients.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29 deaths; High serum hs-CRP levels (&gt;4.04 mg/L) in association with low serum magnesium levels was an independent risk factor for 1-year mortality (hazard ratio: 2.92; 95% CI: 1.53-6.40, P&lt;0.001).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| (9)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross sectional study</li> <li>n= 282 HD patients</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serum Mg levels were significantly lower among PPI users vs. non-users (0.94+/-0.2 vs. 1.03+/-0.2mmol/L; p&lt;0.0001). The use of PPIs was an independent and strong predictor of low Mg concentrations even in multivariate analysis (OR 3.05; 95% CI 1.2498-7.4594, p=0.01).</li> <li>Residual renal function didn't show a significant correlation with [Mg] (r=-0.102; p=NS) in both groups.</li> </ul>   |
| (10)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross sectional study</li> <li>n = 1189 HD patients</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypomagnesemia was significantly associated with PPI (adjusted OR, OR: 2.05; 95% CI: 1.14-3.69; P = 0.017); Magnesium concentration is a proven predictor of mortality in hemodialysis patients</li> </ul>  |
| (11)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single-center cross-sectional study</li> <li>n = 155 HD patients</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serum Mg levels were significantly lower among PPI users vs. non-users (0.93 vs. 1.02 mmol/L, p &lt; 0.001). This finding persisted after stratifying for dialysate Mg concentration, and after multivariable adjustment (p &lt; 0.001).</li> </ul>   |
| (12)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-month chart review</li> <li>n=62 HD patients</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of PPIs was significantly associated with hypomagnesemia (plasma [Mg] 1.48 +/- 0.16 mEq/l in the PPI group vs. 1.65 +/- 0.26 mEq/l in the non-PPI group, p = 0.007). Adjustment for age, diabetes status, duration of dialysis, plasma albumin, Kt/V, nPCR, and diuretic use did not affect the association.</li> </ul>   |
| (13)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interventional study</li> <li>n= 115 HD patients</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mean serum phosphate level increased significantly after administration of either famotidine or lansoprazole (by 6.6 +/- 21.9% or 13.0 +/- 26.3%, p = 0.032 and p = 0.029, respectively).</li> <li>Mean serum calcium level was unchanged after administration of famotidine, but showed a significant decrease after administration of lansoprazole (by 3.44 +/- 7.73%, p = 0.013). When famotidine was switched to lansoprazole, serum calcium decreased significantly by 3.8 +/- 13.0% (p = 0.0006).</li> </ul>                    |
| <b>Safety Concern: Lower Bone Mineral Density</b> |  |  |
| (14)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross sectional study</li> <li>n= 68 HD patients</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Users of PPIs had lower values of bone mineral density and T-scores at the anatomical regions than non-users</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Safety Concern: Reduced Calcium Transport</b>  |  |  |
| (15)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross sectional study</li> <li>n= 30 HD patients</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute gastric acid inhibition by omeprazole reduced the intestinal calcium transport</li> </ul>   |

# Methods

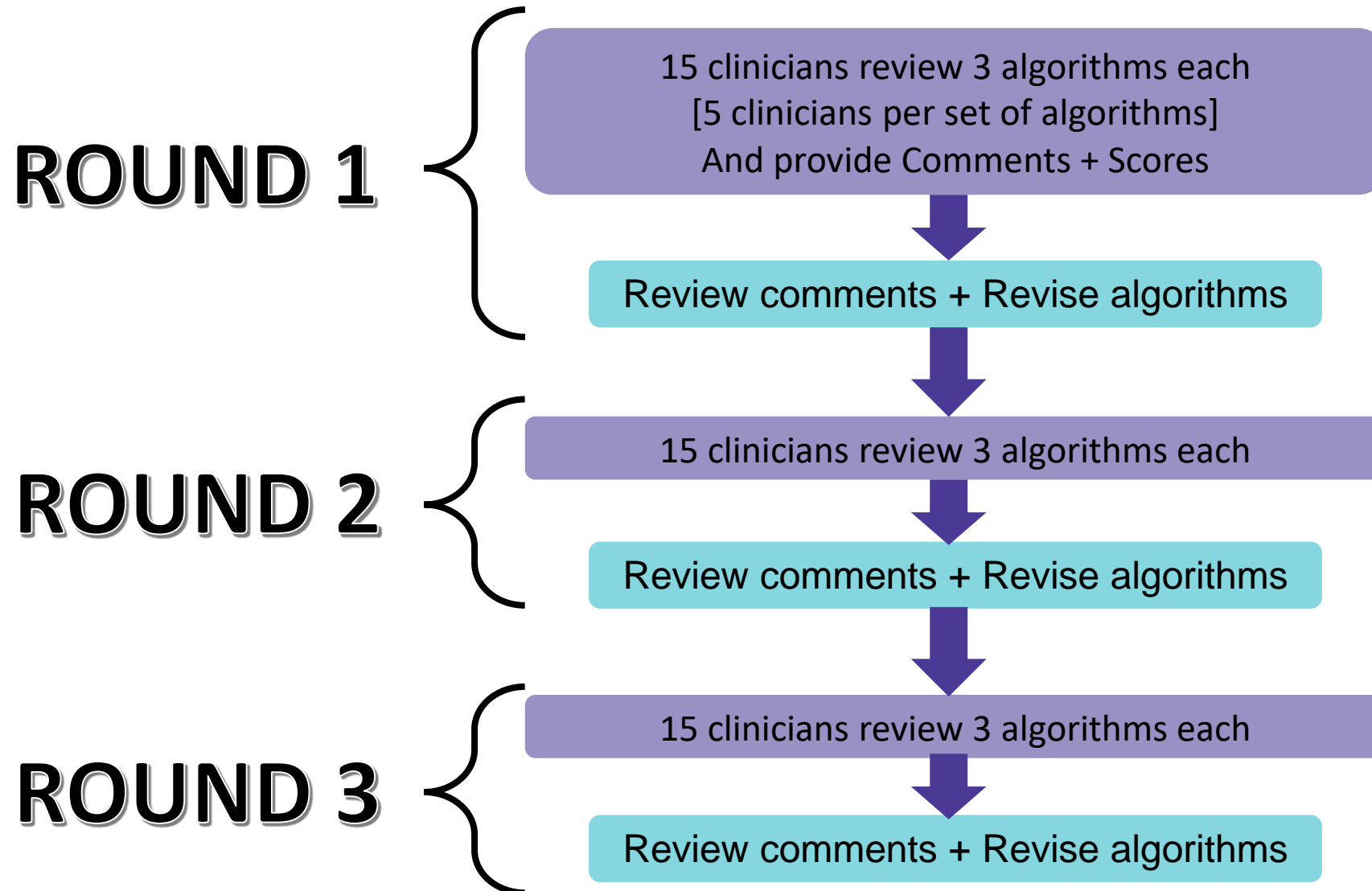
## Validation of Deprescribing Algorithms

-used Lynn Method



Deprescribing

# Validation Methodology



# Results

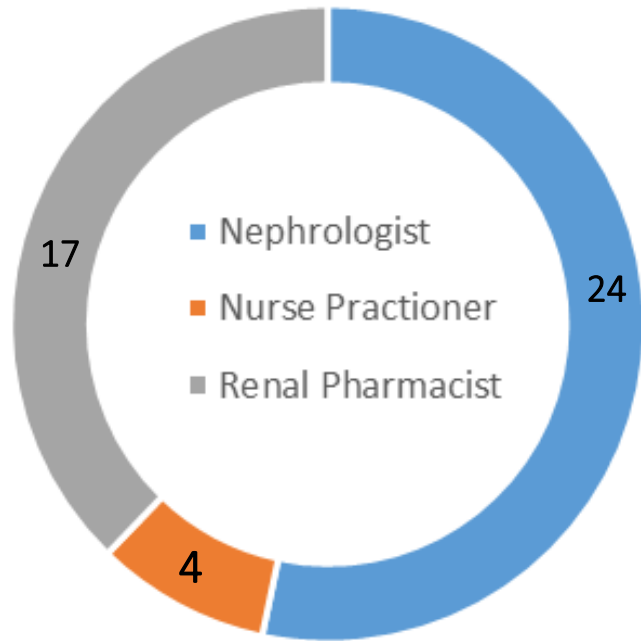
## Validation of Deprescribing Algorithms



**Deprescribing**

# Demographics for Validation Study

## Participants Count by Profession



### Years practicing:

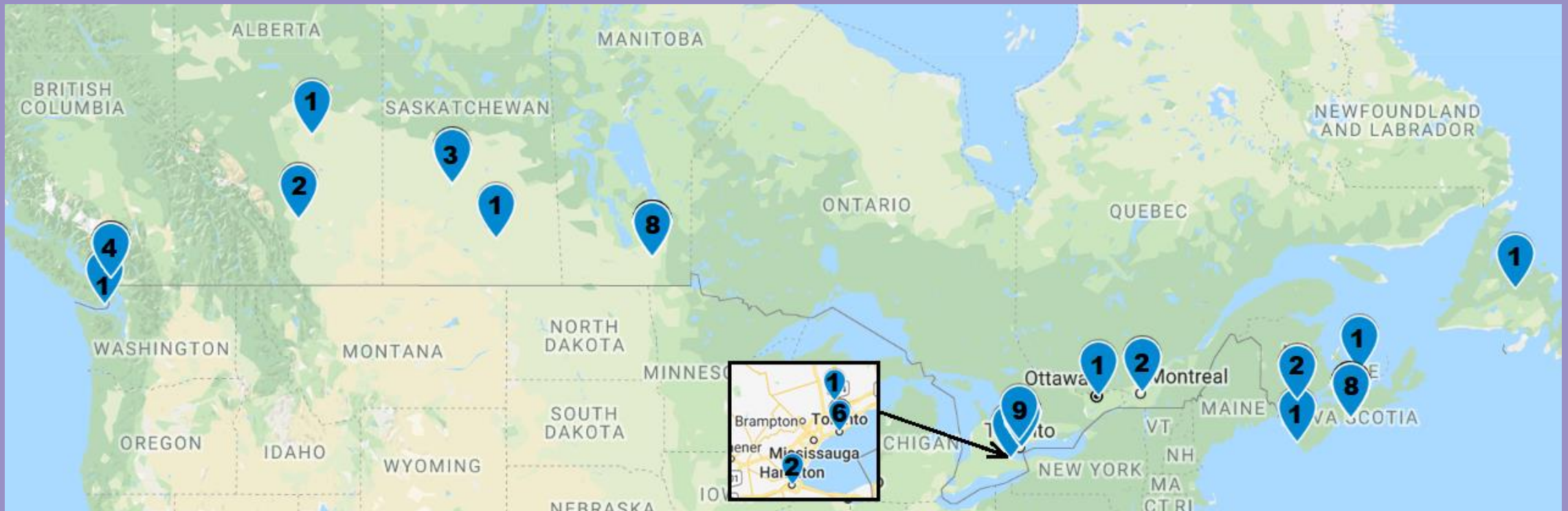
Median: 15

Range: 1-34

# Demographics for Validation Study

## Participants Count by province

National validation of the deprescribing algorithms  
15 clinicians per round x 3 rounds = 45 clinicians surveyed





# Validation of Patient Information Toolkit



**Deprescribing**

- Using Lynn method (3 rounds of 6 patients)
- Research coordinators and **PATIENTS** at each site

# Validation of Patient Information Tools

| Site                  | Tools Reviewed              | Validation       |            |            |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
|                       |                             | Round 1          | Round 2    | Round 3    |
| Winnipeg,<br>Manitoba | Urate Lowering Agents + A1B | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Gabapentinoids + Benzos     | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Loop Diuretics + PPIs       | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Quinine + Statins           | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
| Vancouver,<br>BC      | Urate Lowering Agents + A1B | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Gabapentinoids + Benzos     | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Loop Diuretics + PPIs       | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Quinine + Statins           | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
| Toronto,<br>Ontario   | Urate Lowering Agents + A1B | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Gabapentinoids + Benzos     | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Loop Diuretics + PPIs       | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Quinine + Statins           | 2 patients       | 2 patients | 2 patients |
|                       | Prokinetic Agents           | <i>Completed</i> |            |            |


- For each set of “2 patients”:
- 1 patient interviewed by a research assistant
  - 1 patient interviewed by a patient partner

# Patient Information Tool (example: PPIs)

## Deprescribing Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI)


### What is Deprescribing?

- Deprescribing means lowering the dose or stopping a medication that may no longer be helping or may be causing harm




### Why Deprescribe in Hemodialysis Patients?

- Hemodialysis patients take up to 12 medications each day
- Since many medications are not studied in hemodialysis patients, the benefits and harms are unknown
- Hemodialysis patients have a harder time getting rid of medications from the body, so patients may have more side effects




### What are Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI)?

- PPIs are used to prevent and treat heartburn and stomach ulcers
- Examples of common PPIs are:
  - **Dexlansoprazole (Dexilant®)**
  - **Lansoprazole (Prevacid®)**
  - **Omeprazole (Losec®)**
  - **Pantoprazole (Tecta®, Pantoloc®)**
  - **Rabeprazole (Pariet®)**
  - **Esomeprazole (Nexium®)**




### Why Stop or Reduce Your PPI Dose?

- Usually, only short-term PPI use is required. Taking PPIs long-term in chronic kidney disease can cause:
  - Decreased effectiveness of other medications such as calcium carbonate (TUMS®)
  - Hardening of blood vessels
  - Infections (for example: pneumonia, stomach infections)
  - Bone fractures
  - Fatigue and heart problems




### Patients With the Following Should Remain on PPIs:

- Severe esophagus inflammation
- Barrett's Esophagus
- Ulcers from an unknown cause
- Uncontrolled heartburn
- Long-term use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication (for example: ibuprofen [Advil®] or naproxen)




### How to Reduce or Stop PPIs Safely?

- Patients who have been taking a PPI for more than 8 weeks may be considered for the PPI deprescribing trial
- Pharmacists, doctors, and nurse practitioners will help decide the best way to stop PPIs
- This may include lowering the amount or frequency you take for a few weeks prior to discontinuation



### What Will Your Healthcare Team be Monitoring?


- Heartburn symptoms
- Antacid use (for example: TUMS®)



### What to if Heartburn Symptoms Continue?


If your heartburn symptoms and frequent antacid use continues, your health care team may recommend:

- Returning to previous PPI dose
- Starting a different medication (for example: ranitidine)



### Other Ways You Can Manage Heartburn:

- Avoid alcohol, coffee, chocolate, spicy food
- Quit smoking
- Elevate your head in bed
- Weight loss



### Your Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) Dose Reduction Plan:

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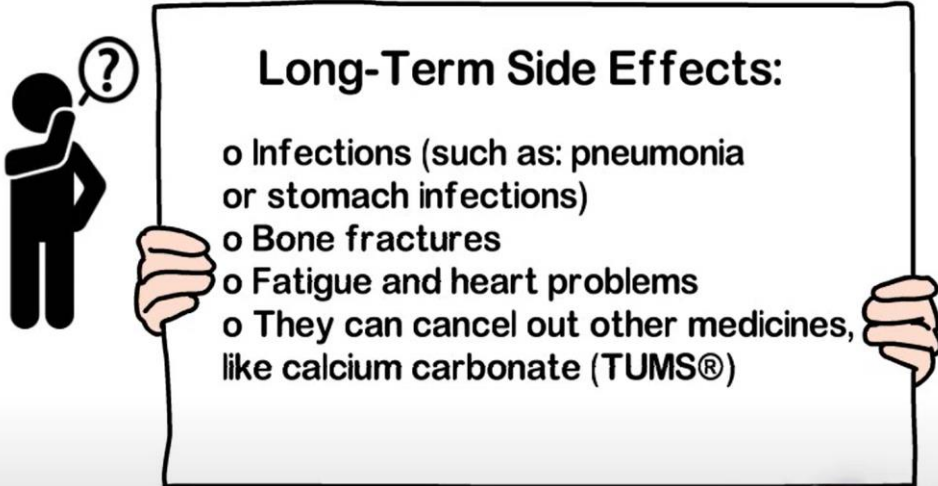
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Please contact your doctor or pharmacist before stopping any medications

# Patient Information Tool (example: PPIs)

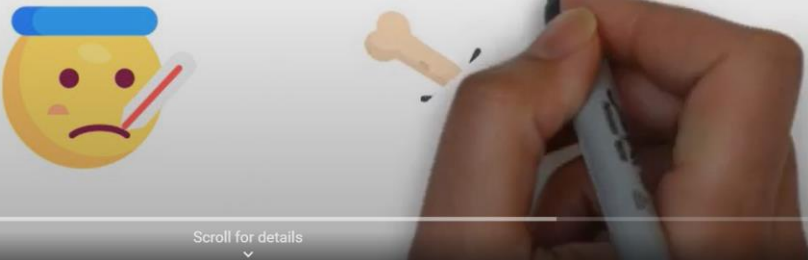
Deprescribing Proton Pump Inhibitors - Patient Information Video (Round 2)

## Why stop or reduce the dose of your PPI?



**Long-Term Side Effects:**

- o Infections (such as: pneumonia or stomach infections)
- o Bone fractures
- o Fatigue and heart problems
- o They can cancel out other medicines, like calcium carbonate (TUMS®)



1:28 / 5:05

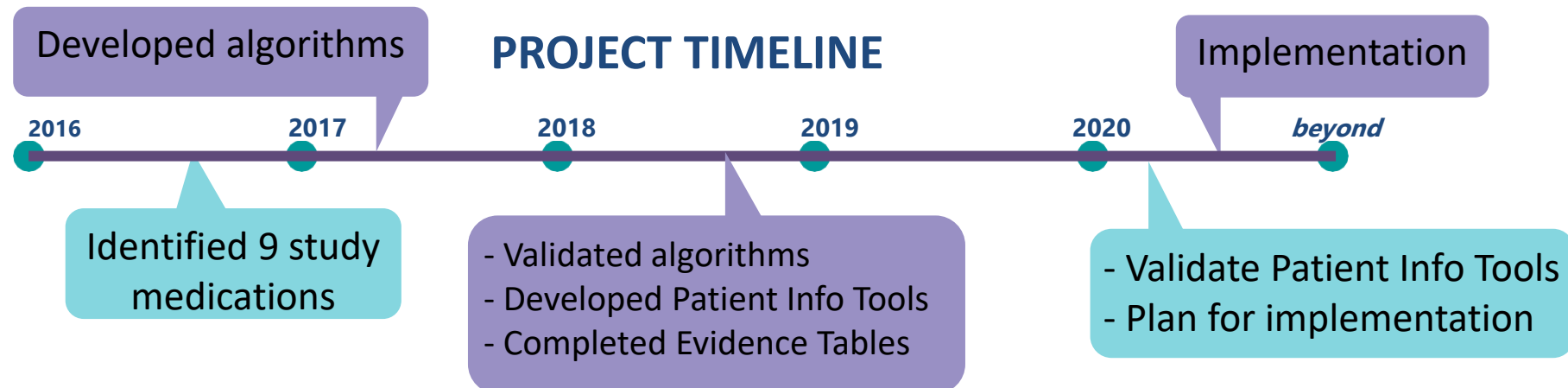
Scroll for details

CC ⚙️ 🔍

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFXZijFgnx8>

# Deprescribing Implementation

- ✓ Deprescribing Algorithm (for clinicians)
- ✓ Evidence Table (for clinicians)
- ✓ Monitoring Tool (for clinicians)
- ✓ Patient Information Toolkit (for patients): video + bulletin



# **Strategic Optimization of Prescription Medication Use in Patients on HemoDialysis (STOP Med-HD)**



**Deprescribing**

Our **specific objectives** are to:

(1) Assess **safety and effectiveness** of the **deprescribing intervention** in the 6-month study period

- Proportion of successfully deprescribed medications (discontinued or reduced dose)
- Frequency of *clinically significant* adverse events related to deprescribing

(2) Determine the **facilitators and barriers** to implementing this deprescribing intervention at our participating sites



**Discussion/  
Conclusion**

# Take Home Messages

- Decreasing medication use in CKD patients can:
  - Reduce adverse events (e.g. falls, hospitalizations)
  - Reduce pill burden and costs
  - Increase adherence with remaining medications
  - Improve quality of life
- All team members have a role to play in the success in optimizing medication use in CKD
- Taking the first step and developing a plan for medication review and strategic prescribing are key to optimization of medications in the CKD population

# Acknowledgements



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**Conclusion**



**Past RAs:** Melissa Lefebvre & Patrick Ng





