Comparing three criteria for assessment of what medicines included in National Hospital Formulary are classified as potentially inappropriate medication for older patients.

What was done?
Through three different tools, we identified which drugs classified as Potentially Inappropriate Medication (PIM) are present in the National Hospital Formulary of Medicines (FHNM). Information on the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) about precautions and special conditions of use in elderly patients was verified too.

Why was done?
Some medicines are described as PIM for older patients. At least one PIM is regularly prescribed between 25% to 56% in hospitalized elderly and have been associated to adverse drug reactions (ADR) in this population. ADR are responsible for 6–17% of all hospital admissions in older adults.

How was it done?

For all medicines included in:

- EU(7)-PIM List
- Version 2 of the STOPP criteria
- 2019 Beers criteria

A search on the Portuguese FHNM, through the website of National Medicines and Health Products Authority (INFARMED, I.P.) was made.

For each PIM found in the FHNM, the SmPC was analyzed to check the recommendations made for older patients.

What was achieved?

FHNM

242 chemical substances as PIMs

By at least one of the three tools.

181

Version 2 of the STOPP criteria

136

EU(7)-PIM List

64

2019 Beers criteria

About 17% of identified PIMs were present in all of these tools.

The SmPC of 36% of the identified PIMs do not have special recommendations or precautions for older patients use!

What is next?
The identification of PIMs by hospital pharmacists, using adequate tools, is essential in order to contribute to the reduction of drug related problems in older patients. Therefore, the next step involves the implementation of clinical decision support systems that could help prescribing physicians to reduce the consumption of PIMs.

References


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