

Hospice diagnosis: polypharmacy—a teachable moment.

November 20, 2015

Larson CK, Kao H. Hospice Diagnosis: Polypharmacy: A Teachable Moment. JAMA Intern Med. 2015;175(11):1750-1751. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2015.5253.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/hospice-diagnosis-polypharmacy-teachable-moment>

[Overprescribing](#) can increase risk of [dementia](#), particularly among older patients. This commentary describes an incident involving a patient with moderate dementia that worsened when opioids were prescribed following a fall. After a geriatrician evaluated the patient and suspected polypharmacy, the drugs were stopped, caregivers were educated about how to treat the patient, and the patient improved. Highlighting the importance of environmental interventions in treating this patient, the author reviews [strategies](#) to address neuropsychiatric symptoms of dementia.