

# PRIMARY CARE OLDER ADULT MEDICATIONS CAUSING DELIRIUM

## PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

- Central acting agents
  - Sedative hypnotics (e.g., benzodiazepines)
  - Anticonvulsants (e.g., barbiturates)
  - Antiparkinsonian agents (e.g., Benztropine, Trihexyphenidyl)
- Analgesics
  - Narcotics (eg. Meperidine\*)
  - Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs\*
- Antibiotics
  - Fluoroquinolones\*
- Antihistamines
  - first generation (e.g., Hydroxyzine, Diphenhydramine)
- Anticonvulsants
  - Phenytoin, Phenobarbitone, Mysoline
- Antiparkinsonian
  - Dopamine agonists
  - Levodopa-carbidopa
  - Anticholinergics
  - Benztropine
- Antinauseants
  - Scopolamine
  - Dimenhydrinate
- Psychotropic medications
  - Tricyclic antidepressants (eg. Amitriptyline, Imipramine and Doxepin)
  - Lithium\*
  - Neuroleptics (eg. Chlorpromazine)
- Cardiac medications
  - Antiarrhythmics
  - Digitalis\*
  - Antihypertensives (b-blockers, methyldopa)
- Bladder and Bowel/GI
  - Proton pump inhibitors
  - Antispasmodics (eg. Tolteridine, Oxybutynin)
  - H2-blockers\*(eg. Cimetidine)
- Miscellaneous
  - Skeletal muscle relaxants
  - Steroids
  - Flu (e.g, Amantadine)

## OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS AND COMPLEMENTARY/ ALTERNATIVE MEDICATIONS

- Antihistamines
  - First generation such as diphenhydramine, chlorpheniramine
- Antinauseants
  - dimenhydrinate, scopolamine
- Liquid medications containing alcohol
- Mandrake
- Henbane
- Jimson weed
- Atropa belladonna extract

\* Requires adjustment in renal impairment.

Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH) (2006). *National Guidelines for Seniors' Mental Health. The Assessment and Treatment of Delirium*. Toronto, ON: Author/Baycrest. Alagiakrishnan and Wiens. (2004)