

Many medications for elderly are prescribed inappropriately

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Approximately one in five prescriptions to elderly people is inappropriate, according to a study published Aug. 22 in the open access journal *PLOS ONE*.

The authors of the study, led by Dedan Opondo of the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam, conducted a systematic review of English-language studies of medication use in the elderly and found that the median rate of inappropriate prescriptions was 20.5%.

Some of the medications with the highest rates of inappropriate use were the antihistamine diphenhydramine, the antidepressant amitriptyline, and the pain reliever [propoxyphene](#).

More information: Opondo D, Eslami S, Visscher S, de Rooij SE, Verheij R, et al. (2012) Inappropriateness of Medication Prescriptions to Elderly Patients in the Primary Care Setting: A Systematic Review. *PLoS ONE* 7(8): e43617. [doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0043617](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0043617)

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