

# Potentially unsafe med scripts up for dual users with dementia

December 6 2016

---



(HealthDay)—For veterans with dementia, Veterans Affairs

(VA)-Medicare Part D (dual-system) users have increased rates of potentially unsafe medication (PUM) prescribing, according to a study published online Dec. 6 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Joshua M. Thorpe, Ph.D., M.P.H., from the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and colleagues conducted a [retrospective cohort study](#) in national VA outpatient care facilities in 2010 to examine the effect of dual health care system use on PUM prescribing. Data were included from 75,829 [veterans](#) with dementia: 80 percent were VA-only users and 20 percent were dual users.

The researchers found that dual users had more than double the odds of [exposure](#) to any PUM compared with VA-only users (odds ratio, 2.2) and had increased odds of exposure to PUM-Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) high-risk medication in older adults (PUM-HEDIS, odds ratio, 2.4) and any daily exposure to prescriptions with a cumulative Anticholinergic Cognitive Burden (ACB) score of 3 or higher (PUM-ACB, odds ratio, 2.1). Dual users also had higher odds of PUM-antipsychotic exposure (odds ratio, 1.5). For any-PUM exposure, dual users had 44.1 additional days of exposure.

"Among veterans with dementia, rates of PUM prescribing are significantly higher among dual-system users than with VA-only users," the authors write.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

[Editorial \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2016 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Potentially unsafe med scripts up for dual users with dementia (2016, December 6)

retrieved 25 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-12-potentially-unsafe-med-scripts-dual.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.