

Inappropriate prescribing leads to poor outcomes in older adults

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(HealthDay)—Potentially inappropriate prescribing (PIP) is tied to

increased health care utilization and poor outcomes among older individuals seen in primary care practices, according to a review published in the May/June issue of the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

Tau Ming Liew, from the Institute of Mental Health in Singapore, and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to determine if PIP is associated with adverse outcomes among [older persons](#) seen in primary care.

The researchers identified eight articles (77,624 participants), all of which had a cohort design and low risk for bias. PIP did not affect mortality (risk ratio [RR], 0.98; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.93 to 1.05). However, PIP was significantly associated with emergency department visits (RR, 1.63; 95 percent CI, 1.32 to 2.00), adverse drug events (RR, 1.34; 95 percent CI, 1.09 to 1.66), functional decline (RR, 1.53; 95 percent CI, 1.08 to 2.18), [health-related quality of life](#) (standardized mean difference, -0.26; 95 percent CI, -0.36 to -0.16), and hospitalizations (RR, 1.25; 95 percent CI, 1.09 to 1.44).

"Essentially, the findings showed that the construct of PIP is more than just a consensus of good clinical practice, and they underscored the need to focus on PIP in [primary care](#) to improve patient outcomes," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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