Reviewer’s report

Title: Prescriber variation in potentially inappropriate prescribing in older populations in Ireland

Version: 1 Date: 25 November 2013

Reviewer: UGUR BILGE

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The manuscript investigates the use of “STOPP” criteria for elderly patients in primary care. The safety of clinical prescription in elderly is an important health issue in geriatric medicine, this paper is worthy of publication, especially during the increasing percentage of old aged population. The findings while, for the most part, not surprising but the findings are not well enough discussed. The authors did not clearly describe about the findings with clinical significances.

As I looked at the results of this study, I realized that the percentage of inappropriate use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs is high in this study population. I think such finding should be discussed in discussion part which will guide the readers for the potential costs of PIPs. Some studies about such subject were added below

I thought that the authors should comment that although the START/STOPP criteria provide a useful tool for detecting inappropriate drug use in elderly patients, they cannot replace the clinical judgment of the physician.

Best Regards

Inappropriate use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and other drugs in chronic kidney disease patients without renal replacement therapy.
Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs: as inappropriate pharmacotherapy in the elderly?
Juloski J, Despotovi# N, Vujisi# A, Erceg P, Milosevi# DP, Marjanovi# S, Zivanovi# S, Popovi# D, Davidovi# M.
The use of START/STOPP criteria for elderly patients in primary care.
Yayla ME, Bilge U, Binen E, Keskin A

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: I have no competing interests