Reviewer's report

Title: Deprescribing benzodiazepines and Z-drugs in community-dwelling adults: a scoping review

Version: 2
Date: 7 April 2015

Reviewer: Danijela Gnjidic

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for the opportunity to review this manuscript, which addresses an important clinical issue. Strategies to reduce or deprescribe benzodiazepines are critical to minimise harms associated with long-term use of sedative/hypnotic drugs. I had some comments for the authors to consider.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Why did authors limit this review to community-dwelling people only? Why not consider other settings – e.g. residential aged care?
2) It is unclear from the methods which patient subgroup was targeted. Is it older people only (>65 yrs) or adults aged over 18 years of age?
3) Should you list 'key words' used to search for articles?
4) Why were narrative reviews included in this scoping review? I would not anticipate for original research to be reported in a narrative review.
5) Results section on deprescribing strategies – I think it’s more appropriate to say that RCTs is a study design use to assess the impact of interventions on reducing exposures not a ‘deprescribing strategy’.
6) In relation to my previous comment, I suggest authors expand on what various interventions entailed in terms of their approaches to reduce sedative drug use. Have any of the interventions assessed impact on clinical outcomes? Any evidence to suggest that either intervention type is safe and effective?
7) Table 1 could go into appendix. Also, the table could be improved by summarising the actual intervention approach used to deprescribe sedatives.
8) Figure 1 is somewhat consuming. What do you mean by ‘mixed’ and ‘other’ interventions?
9) Discussion section – suggest to delete first sentence or move to results section.
10) What do you mean by this sentence ‘The meta-analytical approach, which aims to answer a specific clinical question, is a narrower approach and therefore ignores a substantial amount of knowledge on this topic, albeit from lower levels of evidence’?
11) I would like to see some recommendation for future studies in the conclusion section.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests’