

# HIVPA: pharmacy, polypharmacy & the future

Chairs:

Asim Ali

Nadia Naous

*This educational event is supported by*



# Polypharmacy in people living with HIV

**Fiona Marra FRPharmS (Consultant)**

Senior Pharmacist HIV/HCV, Glasgow

National Lead Clinician Paediatric Infection (SPAIIIN)

Principal Pharmacist, University of Liverpool

**Conflict of Interest:**

Research grants and/or educational honoraria from Gilead, Viiv,  
MSD

## Understanding Multimorbidity

- Between 2015 and 2020 the global population of over 60's almost doubled.
- Multimorbidity needs considered at all ages
- Successes in HAART mean that often HIV is easiest co-morbidity to manage

## Understanding Polypharmacy

- Polypharmacy is commonly defined as the concurrent administration of  $\geq 5$  medications
- Polypharmacy has been shown to be common in PLWH aged  $\geq 50$  years, ranging from 15% up to 94% as reported by several HIV Cohort

# Polypharmacy and PLWH

Prevalence of polypharmacy ( $\geq 5$  non-HIV drugs) in PLWH aged 50 years

| Country     | Number PLWH | Age, years | Polypharmacy, % |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Switzerland | 111         | $\geq 75$  | 60              |
| Switzerland | 131         | $\geq 65$  | 46              |
| Italy       | 1258        | $\geq 65$  | 37              |
| USA         | 1311        | $\geq 65$  | 43              |
| USA         | 89          | $\geq 60$  | 74              |
| USA         | 1715        | $\geq 50$  | 36              |
| UK/Ireland  | 698         | $\geq 50$  | 30              |
| Spain       | 10073       | $\geq 50$  | 47              |
| Spain       | 242         | $\geq 50$  | 48              |
| USA         | 248         | $\geq 50$  | 94              |
| USA         | 1312        | $\geq 50$  | 54              |
| Canada      | 386         | $\geq 50$  | 43              |
| Japan       | 526         | $\geq 50$  | 35              |
| Uganda      | 411         | $\geq 50$  | 15              |

## - Most common comorbidities:

- hypertension
- dyslipidaemia
- diabetes mellitus
- kidney disease
- cardiovascular disease
- respiratory disorders
- bone disorders
- Cancer

## - Higher prevalence of comorbidities in PLWH compared to age-matched uninfected individuals

## - Multimorbidity ( $\geq 2$ comorbidities) has been shown to be significantly higher in PLWH

# Challenges of Polypharmacy for our patients

Increase in pill burden can have a negative effect of treatment adherence

May increase likelihood of ADRs- overlapping side effects

Risks of prescribing cascade- adverse drug reactions or DDI effects interpreted as new diseases and new drugs prescribed...

Drug drug interactions may be potentiated (not just a+b)

Adverse health outcomes may include physical decline, cognitive impairment, falls, hospitalization and mortality

# Altered Pharmacokinetics in aging patients

Decrease in  
hepatic  
clearance

Reduced gastric  
acid secretion and  
a delayed gastric  
emptying time

Not included in  
clinical trials

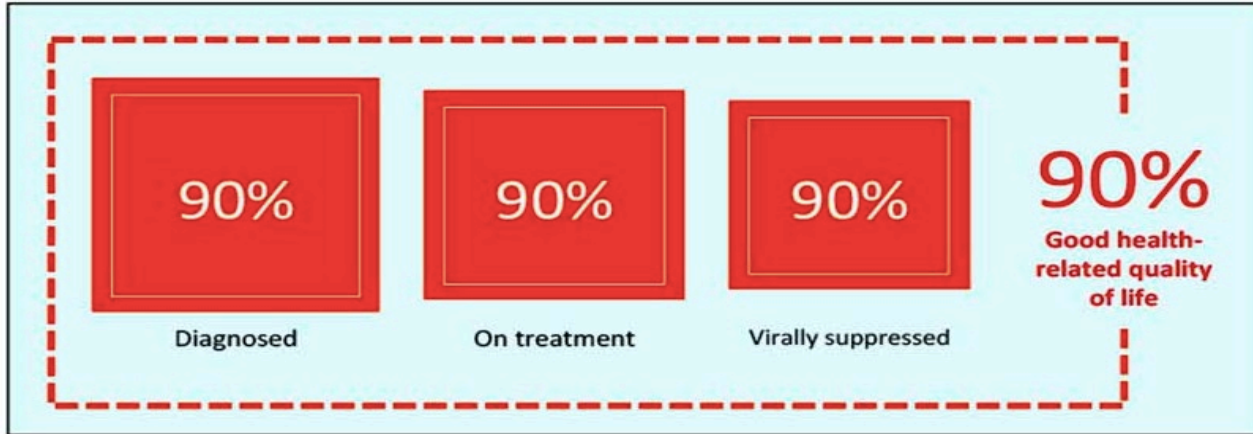
Reduction in lean  
body mass and  
increase in body fat

progressive  
decrease in  
renal clearance

Decreased serum  
albumin- increase in  
unbound drug



# Role of the HIV Pharmacist



Appropriate titration of medications and therapeutic symptom management is important to enable patients to achieve the 4<sup>th</sup> 90.

- Responsibility for prescribing and/or monitoring of ALL conditions?
- Drug interaction management- beyond Liverpool?
  - a + b + c + d?
  - renal/hepatic impairment
  - co-morbidity
- What does perfect look like?



# HIV Pharmacist clinics in 2022 and beyond?

Who's responsibility is it to make sure ALL prescribing is appropriate for PLWH?

- ❖ Co-morbidity reviews? Dose titration or additional agents in uncontrolled hypertension/COPD/mental health etc?
- ❖ Polypharmacy reviews/deprescribing
  - medication reconciliation/review/prioritization
- ❖ Providing care for poor attenders in other specialities eg cirrhosis monitoring for non attending hepatology PLWH? Add on bloods/TDMs to save visits?
- ❖ Reviewing DNA's to understand reasons- can visits be combined?
- ❖ Can we use national guidelines for medicines optimization? Refer?

# Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management

NICE guideline [NG80] Published: 29 November 2017 Last updated: 22 March 2021

Guidance

Tools and resources

Information for the public

Evidence

History

Overview

## Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and management

Recommendations

NICE guideline [NG136] Published: 28 August 2019 Last updated: 18 March 2022

Guidance

Tools and resources

Information for the public

Evidence

History

Overview

Recommendations

### Guidance

[Download guidance \(PDF\)](#)

Recommendations

Rationale and impact

Context

## Cirrhosis in over 16s: assessment and management

NICE guideline [NG50] Published: 06 July 2016

Guidance

Tools and resources

Information for the public

Evidence

History

Overview

Recommendations

Putting this guideline into practice

Context

### Guidance

[Download guidance \(PDF\)](#)

### Recommendations

# Identifying legacy DDI's

## Patient DM

Started DRV/r + Truvada  
2014

- On simvastatin – RED
- Switched to low dose pravastatin due to DDI

Switched to Triumeq 2016

- Remains on suboptimal statin and cholesterol not controlled

## Patient TF

Started ATZ/r + Truvada  
2016

- On Atorvastatin 80mg– AMBER
- Switched to Atorvastatin 10mg due to DDI

Switched to Biktarvy  
2020

- Dose never increased again

## Patient FK

On Genvoya 2015

- Stable asthma at time, switched to beclomethasone instead of previous fluticasone due to DDI

Switched to Triumeq 2018

- Asthma decline
- Documented in notes still not for budesonide or fluticasone
- 15 salbutamol inhalers

# Optimisation and managing Toxicity

## Patient DJ

On Darunavir/r + ABC/3TC. Stable HIV. History of depression.

- 3 antidepressants 'tried and failed' over 2 years
- None reached optimal dosing over fears of DDI
- Most antidepressants have multiple metabolism/elimination pathways thus lower propensity for DDI
- Cattaneo et al. 2018 showed larger proportion of PLWH were shown to have sub-therapeutic antidepressants levels compared to uninfected individuals

## Patient LD

On DOL + TDF/FTC. Stable HIV. Longstanding 'easy' patient. 55 year old male

- Renal function decline over 2 years, slow and subtle.
- Medication review- 12 other medications, co-morbidities well controlled
- 6 medications identified as being renally excreted: TDF, goserelin, allopurinol, gabapentin and OTC ibuprofen and fluconazole

# Conclusion

- ❖ An aging cohort of PLWH includes many issues with multi morbidity, polypharmacy and polyprescribers that will only increase in future.
- ❖ As boosted HAART use has decreased the unique skill set pharmacists possess should shift care to enable a more holistic medication review - meeting the fourth 90 target by becoming the principle expert on ALL prescribed medications.
- ❖ DDI's still need to be considered in all HAART with clinically significant effects potentiated in patients on polypharmacy.
- ❖ Medication optimisation and de-prescribing reviews should be led by HIV pharmacist as standard of care if not already



**Autumn Conference**  
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