



Objectives: Care of the Elderly

1. In the elderly patient taking multiple medications, avoid polypharmacy by:
 - a. Monitoring side effects
 - b. Periodically reviewing medication (e.g. is the medication still indicated, is the dosage appropriate).
 - c. Monitoring for interactions
 - d. Encouraging deprescribing of potentially harmful medications (e.g. benzodiazepines, Z-drugs).
2. In the elderly patient, actively inquire about non-prescription use (e.g. herbal medicines, cough drops, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins).
3. In the elderly patients, screen for modifiable risk factors (e.g. visual disturbances, impaired hearing) to promote safety and prolong independence.
4. In the elderly patient, assess functional status to:
 - a. Anticipate and discuss the eventual need for changes in the living environment.
 - b. Ensure that social support is adequate.
5. In older patients with disease prone to atypical presentation, do not exclude these diseases without a thorough assessment (e.g. pneumonia, appendicitis, depression).

** Mapped to the CFPC's 105 priority topics: #36-Elderly