



GP Decision Support Tool - ceasing medications in aged care homes

Consider the following:

- What is the purpose of this medication?**
 - Short term
 - Long term
 - Symptom relief?
 - Prolongation of life?
 - Reduction of illness?
- Life expectancy**
- Quality of life**
- Adverse effects of medication**
- Impact of ceasing medication**
- Drug interactions**
- Administration**
 - Ability to swallow
 - Need to crush medications
 - Ability to sit up
- Renal function**
- Specific factors for this medication**
 - Eg mobility/ falls risk re osteoporosis medications
 - Eg trauma risk & Warfarin
- Non-pharmacological options**
- Relatives' opinion**
 - discuss advantages vs disadvantages with relatives
 - be aware that relatives may be concerned that ceasing medications means "giving up"
 - encourage relatives to think about what the resident would have wanted if s/he could make their own decision
- Aged Care Home issues**
 - staff availability, training Eg to manage difficult behaviours
- Need for specialist advice**
 - To help balance pros vs cons
 - To help add weight to recommendation
 - Advice from Pharmacist (RMMR)