

REDUCING INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ANTIPSYCHOTICS in people with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD)



Antipsychotics are medicines that can reduce symptoms of psychosis but have limited benefit for BPSD

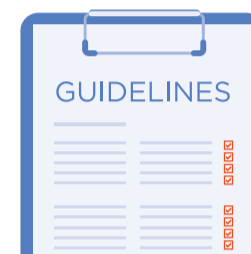
Antipsychotics are overused for BPSD



Use of antipsychotics in Australia is **high** for BPSD in all settings



Around **1 in 5** residents in Australian aged care homes are prescribed at least one antipsychotic medicine



Guidelines recommend that antipsychotics **should not be used** as first-line treatment for BPSD

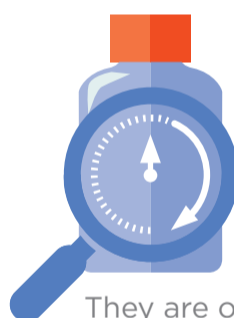
Inappropriate use of antipsychotics is a problem



For every **five** people with dementia given an antipsychotic, **only one will benefit**



Antipsychotics can cause harm and **increase the risk** of stroke, pneumonia and fractures



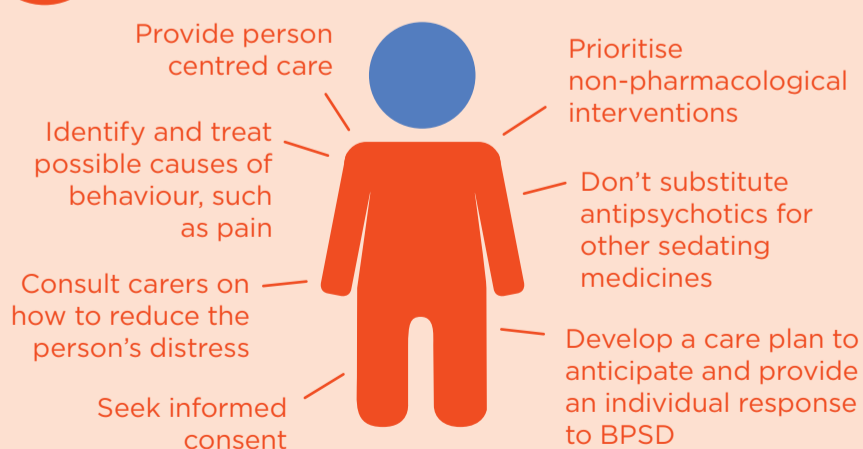
They are often used for **too long**, and without proper consent or monitoring



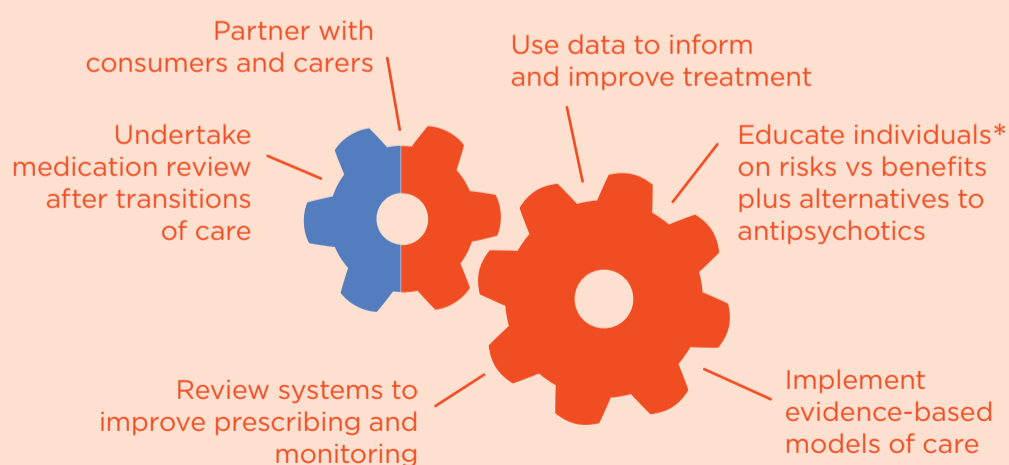
Only one antipsychotic (risperidone) is approved for BPSD on the PBS, and only to be used:

- on authority script for 12 weeks
- for dementia of Alzheimer's type with psychosis and aggression, and
- after non-pharmacological interventions have failed.

We can reduce inappropriate use



For individuals
*Prescribers, healthcare managers and workforce, consumers and carers



At organisational and systems level