

# PHARMACY QI

Practical Tips for Quality Improvement

May 2019

## Using the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) 2019 Beers Criteria® Wisely

Use clinical common sense when prescribing an AGS Beers Criteria® medication.



### WHY IS THE RESIDENT TAKING THE DRUG; IS IT TRULY NEEDED?

Medications in the 2019 AGS Beers Criteria® are **potentially** inappropriate, **not definitely** inappropriate.



### DOES THE RESIDENT HAVE PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS THAT INCREASE OR MITIGATE RISK OF THIS MEDICATION?

Understand why medications are included in the 2019 AGS Beers Criteria®, and adjust your approach to those medications accordingly. For example, a medication that increases the risk of falls would be of a higher concern in a resident with a high baseline fall risk than in a resident with a low risk of falling.



### ARE THERE SAFER AND/OR MORE EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES?

Consult your pharmacist for other safer pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies as alternatives to AGS Beers Criteria® medications.

### USE 2019 AGS BEERS CRITERIA® AS A STARTING POINT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF MEDICATION APPROPRIATENESS AND SAFETY.



Your Consultant Pharmacist can help review and discuss your resident's entire medication regimen, addressing issues that could include other high-risk medications (e.g., anticoagulants, hypoglycemics), medication adherence, unnecessary medication use, and underuse of medications.

#### References:

1. Steinman MA, Fick DM. Using Wisely: A Reminder on the Proper Use of the American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria®. J Am Geriatr Soc 2019;00:1-3. DOI:10.1111/jgs.15766.
2. How to Use the 2019 AGS Beers Criteria®: A Guide for Patients, Clinicians, Health Systems, and Payers. A Clinician Education Tool. www.GeriatricsCareOnline.org. Accessed Feb. 11, 2019. Registration is required.