

# To what extent is clinical and laboratory information used to perform medication reviews in the nursing home setting? the CLEAR study

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**Background:** The aim of this study was to evaluate to what extent laboratory data, actual medication, medical history, and/or drug indication influence the quality of medication reviews for nursing home patients.

**Methods:** Forty-six health care professionals from different fields were requested to perform medication reviews for three different cases. Per case, the amount of information provided varied in three subsequent stages: stage 1, medication list only; stage 2, adding laboratory data and reason for hospital admission; and stage 3, adding medical history/drug indication. Following a slightly modified Delphi method, a multidisciplinary team performed the medication review for each case and stage. The results of these medication reviews were used as reference reviews (gold standard). The remarks from the participants were scored, according to their potential clinical impact, from relevant to harmful on a scale of 3 to -1. A total score per case and stage was calculated and expressed as a percentage of the total score from the expert panel for the same case and stage.

**Results:** The overall mean percentage over all cases, stages, and groups was 37.0% when compared with the reference reviews. For one of the cases, the average score decreased significantly from 40.0% in stage 1, to 30.9% in stage 2, and 27.9% in stage 3; no significant differences between stages was found for the other cases.

**Conclusion:** The low performance, against the gold standard, of medication reviews found in the present study highlights that information is incorrectly used or wrongly interpreted, irrespective of the available information. Performing medication reviews without using the available information in an optimal way can have potential implications for patient safety.

**Keywords:** polypharmacy, medication therapy management, decision support systems management, aged, medication review

## Introduction

Polypharmacy is defined as the use of more than a certain number of drugs irrespective of their appropriateness.<sup>1-3</sup> In the Netherlands, it has been defined as the chronic use of five or more drugs from different therapeutic groups or subgroups.<sup>4</sup>

According to the Foundation for Pharmaceutical Statistics (SFK Stichting Farmaceutische Kengetallen), on average, 10% of pharmacy visitors in the Netherlands are polymedicated. As expected, this percentage increases with age. For patients under 40, 41-64, 65-69, 70-74, and over 75 years, the percentage who were polymedicated was found to be 0%, 8%, 20%, 25%, and 33%, respectively.<sup>5</sup>

Polymedicated patients are at increased risk of experiencing adverse drug reactions and possibly undertreatment.<sup>6</sup> Frail and disabled nursing home patients on polypharmacy

have an increased risk of experiencing adverse drug reactions.<sup>1,2</sup> Management of these patients is often complex because of impairment of organ function and/or comorbidities.<sup>1-3,7-9</sup>

Developing and assessing new care interventions are key to optimizing pharmacotherapy, and thus limiting the negative effects of polypharmacy.<sup>10</sup> Studies have suggested that the elements of a successful medication review include use of a standardized method performed by pharmacists and physicians, as well as use of laboratory data and a complete medical and drug history.<sup>11-16</sup>

Computerized clinical decision support systems (CCDSS) can be defined as decision-aiding tools that provide health care professionals with clinical knowledge and patient-related information, intelligently filtered or presented at appropriate times, to enhance patient care.<sup>17-19</sup> Most of the current computerized systems are based on drug history and laboratory data but do not take into account the indication for the drug and/or the medical history.<sup>17,20</sup> By not considering these factors, an important part of a medication review could be missed, as there is not any knowledge about the necessity for a drug to be prescribed or to be discontinued. This could lead to an unnecessary increase in polypharmacy or to underprescribing (eg, a patient with a history of myocardial infarction not using a statin or acetylsalicylic acid).

In a previous study, we demonstrated the importance of different covariates in order to perform a high-quality medication review.<sup>21</sup> We concluded that the most important covariates to consider were the medical history and/or drug indication, use of guidelines, the reviewer's occupation, and the availability of laboratory data. Medical history, drug history, and laboratory data have also been identified in other studies as leading to a successful medication review.<sup>11-16</sup> Therefore, these variables were selected for this study.

The present study evaluates to what extent different types of information (actual medication, reason for hospital admission, laboratory data, and medical history/drug indication) influence the quality of review for nursing home patients.

## Materials and methods

Eighty-five subjects, comprising 33 nursing home physicians, 30 community pharmacists, and 22 general practitioners, were invited to participate in this study. The idea was to have at least 15 participants per group in order to compare between the different professions. We included pharmacists and general practitioners, since previous studies had suggested that medication reviews led by a pharmacist or general practitioner can be successful, and also included nursing

home physicians, because they have to deal with complex, frail elderly with relatively high prevalence of polypharmacy and our project SCREEN (Supporting Clinical Rules in the Evaluation of Elderly patients in Nursing homes) focuses on the nursing home setting.<sup>8,9,11,14,16,22</sup>

Participants in the study were working in Limburg, in the south of the Netherlands, and were recruited via an electronic questionnaire in which the aim of the study and the study design were appropriately described, and their participation was requested. As an incentive to participate, a complementary accredited course on the medication review topic was provided by the IVM (Instituut voor Verantwoord Medicijngebruik [Institute for Responsible Medication Use]) for the health care professionals after they had finished the reviews.

Vignettes of three cases were developed based on real nursing home patients with their complexity (polypharmacy and multimorbidity).<sup>23</sup> A number of medicine-related problems were introduced in the medication list, laboratory values, and/or medical history/drug indications. These medicine-related problems included medication without indication or indication without medication, contraindications, interactions and/or possible side effects, dosage problems, double medication, or wrong medication. For each vignette, information was presented in three stages: in stage 1 only the medication list was presented, in stage 2 the reason for hospital admission and the laboratory results were added, and in stage 3 the complete dataset was presented, including the medical history and/or indications for drugs (Supplementary materials).

Using a slightly modified Delphi method, a multidisciplinary expert team, comprising hospital pharmacists (HvdK, BvO, RJ), hospital pharmacists in training (HdW, CM), a geriatrician (WM), nursing home physicians (JS, KH), and a neuropsychiatrist (FV), performed the medication review for each case and stage prior to the start of the study, thus establishing a reference medication review as the gold standard. The experts used the current applicable clinical management guidelines, and reviewed the same case and stage at the same time. All remarks concerning the medication review were discussed until consensus was reached. The multidisciplinary team scored each remark from 0 to 3, based on the considered clinical relevance: 3 points for remarks of high clinical relevance, 2 points for remarks of moderate clinical relevance, and 1 point for remarks of low clinical relevance. It was agreed that on each participant's evaluation, a score of 0 points would be given when no remark was

made and a minus 1 point would be given for potentially harmful remarks.

A standardized answer form was developed for each case. This form consisted of a table with three columns for medication, remarks, and action taken. The different cases were presented to the participants in the following order.

### Stage 1: medication list only

The vignettes of the three cases were sent by email, together with a standardized answer form on which the participants were asked to note the potential problems with the medication that was on the list, as well as potential actions obtained from their medication review. In addition, participants could give suggestions to add or stop drugs according to their own opinion.

### Stage 2: all information except from medical history/drug indication

Next, the same vignettes were sent again, but with data concerning laboratory values and reason for hospital admission added. The participants also received back the answer forms that they had completed in stage 1. In this way, we could see changes in the outcome of the medication review when they had access to the reason for hospital admission and the laboratory data.

### Stage 3: all information

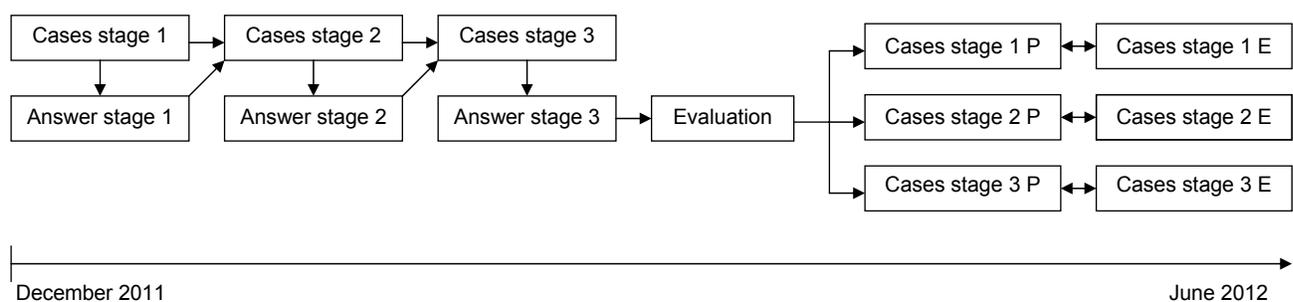
Finally, case reports, including the complete information set (medication list, laboratory data, reason for hospital admission, and medical history/drug indication) were sent once more, together with the answer forms that the participants filled in for stage 2 to see again the changes in outcome of the medication review.

## Study design

The study design is shown in Figure 1. The answer forms that were returned were independently evaluated by two members of the expert team, who tried to reach consensus. The experts were not blinded to the information that participants had when evaluating their performance in the different stages. If their opinion on a remark diverged, a third member, acting like moderator, addressed the remark until consensus was reached. Per case, stage, and health care professional, a total score was obtained by comparing their remarks with the corresponding ones from the expert team, ie, with the same available information, in order to assess the quality of the review, measured by the number and type of remarks made. If a participant made the same remark as the expert team, he/she received the same score for that remark; if the participant made no remark or an incorrect remark, a zero or a minus 1 score was given, depending on the potential harm such a remark could cause.

In the event of a new remark not proposed by the expert panel being encountered during the evaluation, that remark would also be taken into the gold standard, after being evaluated by the expert team. The remark would also receive a score, and all cases would be rechecked for that specific remark.

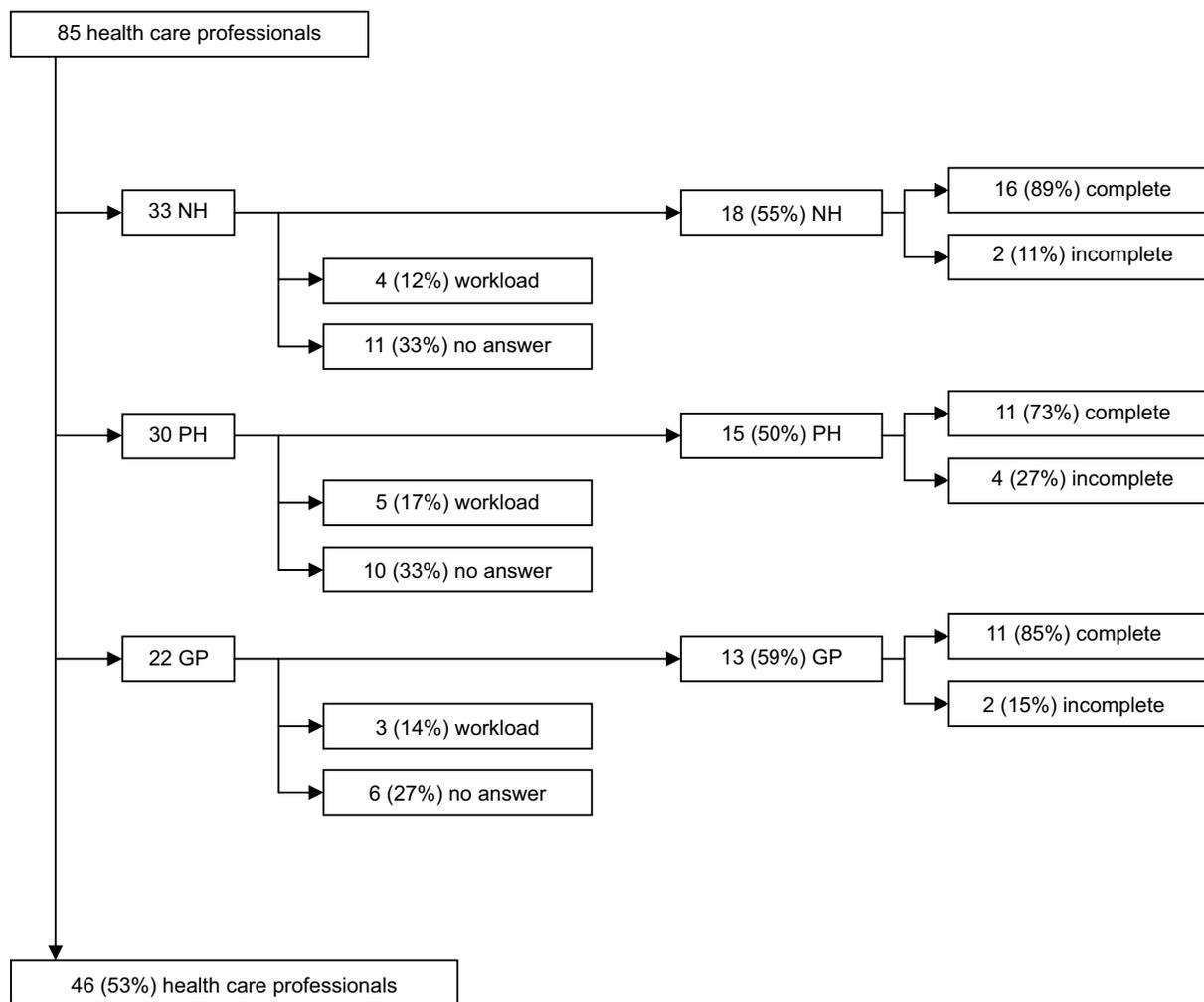
The principal outcome measure was the relative score of the health care professional when compared with the expert panel, expressed as a percentage of the score from the reference panel. For each case, linear mixed models with an unstructured covariance structure for the repeated measures were used to assess the average trend over stages for all health care professionals as well as for each group separately, and the group effect at each stage. Linear mixed models were used to account for the correlations between repeated measurements within the same health care professional, and missing



**Figure 1** Study and design.

**Notes:** Stage 1, with medication list only; stage 2 all information (medication list, reason for hospital admission, and laboratory values) except drug indication and/or medical history; stage 3 complete case (medication list, reason for hospital admission, laboratory values, drug indication, and/or medical history).

**Abbreviations:** P, participants; E, expert team.



**Figure 2** Participation and dropout rates.

**Abbreviations:** PH, pharmacists; NH, nursing home physicians; GP, general practitioners.

data, assuming the data to be missing at random. The analyses were corrected for participants who did not fulfill the three stages. All analyses were performed using IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences for Windows version 19.0 (IBM Corp, Armonk, NY, USA).

## Results

Of the 85 health care professionals who were approached, 46 (54.1%) participated in the study; of these, 38 (82.6%) completed the study, four (8.7%) stopped after stage 1, and four (68.7%) stopped after stage 2 (Figure 2). The demographic characteristics of the participants are shown in Table 1.

The results obtained for the three cases, by group and stage, are listed in Table 2. The overall mean score for all cases and stages was 37.0% for the total group of health care professionals, 39.3% for the pharmacist group, 32.9%

for the nursing home physician group, and 40.3% for the general practitioner group. The overall mean score for the three cases was 32.9%, 36.5%, and 41.5%, respectively. For one of the cases, the overall mean percentage decreased significantly over the stages ( $P=0.001$ ): the mean differences between stages were as follows: between 1 and 2 ( $-9.1$ , 95%

**Table 1** Demographic characteristics of the participants

PH 15 participants	5 (33.3%) males 10 (66.6%) females With an average of 17.2 years experience
NH 18 participants	6 (33.3%) male 12 (66.6%) female With an average of 13.4 years experience
GP 13 participants	7 (53.8%) male 6 (46.2%) female With an average of 20.9 years experience

**Abbreviations:** PH, pharmacists; NH, nursing home physicians; GP, general practitioners.

**Table 2** Estimated mean percentage  $\pm$  standard error for cases A, B, and C, differentiated by group and stage

Group	Case A			Case B			Case C		
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
All	40.0 $\pm$ 2.3*	30.9 $\pm$ 3.6*	27.9 $\pm$ 3.2*	38.0 $\pm$ 3.8	35.2 $\pm$ 3.7	36.4 $\pm$ 3.1	41.4 $\pm$ 2.6	40.3 $\pm$ 3.2	42.7 $\pm$ 3.2
PH	38.7 $\pm$ 4.0	40.1 $\pm$ 6.2#	30.2 $\pm$ 5.9	42.5 $\pm$ 6.6	42.1 $\pm$ 6.7	40.9 $\pm$ 5.7	42.2 $\pm$ 4.6	41.0 $\pm$ 6.0	39.6 $\pm$ 6.0
NH	37.1 $\pm$ 3.6‡	20.1 $\pm$ 5.4‡#	21.9 $\pm$ 5.0‡	29.9 $\pm$ 6.1	29.1 $\pm$ 5.9	33.1 $\pm$ 4.8	40.7 $\pm$ 4.2	45.1 $\pm$ 5.2	42.1 $\pm$ 5.0
GP	45.6 $\pm$ 4.2	36.3 $\pm$ 6.4	33.8 $\pm$ 5.9	44.2 $\pm$ 7.1	36.5 $\pm$ 6.6	36.0 $\pm$ 5.7	41.5 $\pm$ 5.0	33.9 $\pm$ 5.7‡	46.9 $\pm$ 6.0‡

**Notes:** \*Statistically significant for case A, the overall mean percentage significantly decreased over the stages ( $P=0.001$ ). The mean differences decreased between stages 1 and 2 ( $-9.1$ , 95% CI  $-15.3$ ,  $-3.0$ ,  $P=0.005$ ), and between stages 1 and 3 ( $-12.1$ , 95% CI  $-18.6$ ,  $-5.6$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). †Statistically significant within-group effect over the different stages found for case A from stage 1 to stage 2 ( $P=0.001$ ), and from stage 1 to stage 3 ( $P=0.005$ ) in group 2 (NH), and for case C from stage 2 to stage 3 ( $P=0.037$ ) in group 3 (GP). ‡Statistically significant between-group effects for case A at stage 2, ie, the estimated mean percentage was significantly lower in group 2 (NH; 20.1%) than in group 1 (PH; 40.1%,  $P=0.019$ ).

**Abbreviations:** CI, confidence interval; PH, pharmacists; NH, nursing home physicians; GP, general practitioners.

confidence interval  $-15.3$ ,  $-3.0$ ,  $P=0.005$ ), and between stages 1 and 3 ( $-12.1$ , 95% confidence interval  $-18.6$ ,  $-5.6$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). No significant differences were found over the stages for the other two cases. With regard to the within-group effect over the different stages, no significant interactions between stage and group were found for the three cases. For one of the cases, significant decreases were found from stage 1 to 2 ( $P=0.001$ ) and from stage 1 to stage 3 ( $P=0.005$ ) in the nursing home physician group. For another case, the mean percentage decreased significantly from stage 2 to stage 3 ( $P=0.037$ ) in the general practitioner group. With regard to between-group effects, a significant difference was only found for one of the cases at stage 2, ie, the estimated mean percentage was significantly lower in the nursing home physician group than in the pharmacist group (20.1% versus 40.1%, respectively,  $P=0.019$ ).

The results obtained for the different cases, groups, and stages show low performance against the gold standard, irrespective of the available information. The highest score was 46.9% for one of the cases at stage 3 and was from the general practitioner group. The lowest score was 20.1% for one of the cases at stage 2 and was from the nursing home physician group. The absolute percentage scores for pharmacists, nursing home physicians, and general practitioners were 41.1 $\pm$ 3.6, 35.9 $\pm$ 3.3, and 43.8 $\pm$ 2.9, respectively, for stage 1, 41.1 $\pm$ 4.6, 31.4 $\pm$ 5.3, and 35.6 $\pm$ 4.9 for stage 2, and 36.9 $\pm$ 6.4, 32.4 $\pm$ 6.2, and 38.9 $\pm$ 6.7 for stage 3.

Medication-related issues that were identified by some participants included the addition of new medication (vitamin D, nitroglycerin, and an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor) and switching medication (switching bumetanide because of laboratory values and switching aspirin to acenocoumarol). Benzodiazepine-related remarks were well identified (stopping or decreasing oxazepam/temazepam), together with remarks concerning dose reduction due to laboratory values or lack of indication (ferrous fumarate,

haloperidol, opioids). There were no remarks that had either 0% or 100% response rate.

## Discussion

Given the frailty of patients with such profile, a high-quality medication review is crucial. Overall, we found that only about 37% of the issues that could potentially have been raised were actually mentioned by the participants. This represents a low to moderate mean quality of review, even though these health care professionals were given information that could potentially lead to a successful medication review, according to previous studies.<sup>11–16</sup>

For one of the cases, a significant difference was found between pharmacists and nursing home physicians at stage 2 with nursing home physicians scoring significantly lower. This difference could be explained by the fact that pharmacists often do not have access to laboratory results, and when they received this information, extra attention would have been given to performing the medication review. Also, for one of the cases, having extra information resulted in a significant decrease in overall mean percentage; while no clear reason can be identified, participants could have found this specific case more difficult in further stages.

Even though recruitment and communication with the participants was done electronically, the close contact between health care professionals in the region implies that the study was taken seriously and that the results reflect a real life problem. In addition, the amount of time spent to complete all three cases and three stages was no more than a total of 2 hours given the fact that the same cases (A, B and C) were sent only adding extra information.

During the evaluation, the moderator and the two members of the expert team evaluating the results identified three remarks (1.8%) that had not been made by the expert team. These three remarks were discussed further by the expert team, and two of them were finally included in the gold

standard. When evaluating the results, the moderator took action in approximately 10% of cases, where the two members of the expert team could not reach consensus. In addition, and as explained in the methods section, minus 1 point was given for potentially harmful oversights, such as: not pointing out that the methimazole should be decreased when the thyroid-stimulating hormone level was too high; not making any reference to the interaction or contraindication between carbidopa/levodopa and haloperidol; not pointing out that the dose for alendronic acid 70 mg was once a day instead of once a week; or not noticing that a patient allergic to penicillin and co-amoxiclav was prescribed these agents.

Further, the remarks that were more often missing concerned addition of new and necessary medication, highlighting the paradoxical relationship between polymedicated patients and underprescribing.<sup>6</sup>

Although no statistically significant differences were found for the vast majority of the situations (cases, stages, and groups), the mean percentages found after the evaluation demonstrates that there is room for improvement in terms of correctly using and interpreting the available information.

A limitation of this study is that the gold standard was established by a multidisciplinary team, while the participants performed the medication review on their own. The fact that the expert team was a multidisciplinary one might have brought a different perspective to the gold standard in terms of clinical judgment. However, all the medication reviews were compared with the same gold standard, so possible differences are not expected to be different per group. This difference between the multidisciplinary team as the gold standard versus individual judgment also reflects the benefit of such a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach. This difference should be approached in a future study. Another limitation might have been the fact that there were no initial individual scores for the expert panel, so they could not be compared with the final “gold standard”. For this reason, the different perspectives on clinical decision-making might be missing. In addition, in this study, patient interviews were not taken into account, whereas in real life these patient meetings can have an influence on the medication review.

In a previous study, we evaluated which variables should be considered to perform a high-quality medication review,<sup>20</sup> and in the present study, we evaluated how such variables are interpreted.

Ultimately, we intend to use the most important variables identified in this study as the basis for the development of a CCDSS within the SCREEN project.<sup>21</sup> This system is intended to support clinical practice in nursing homes, homes for the

aged, and other settings, making the clinical medication review process less time-consuming, decreasing unnecessary medication-related health care costs, and improving quality of life for older patients on polypharmacy. This system will include the prerequisites for a high quality medication review suggested earlier, ie, a standardized method, in our case a CCDSS, which takes into account laboratory data, medical history, and drug history, and is developed and implemented by a multidisciplinary team.

## Conclusion

Clinician performance regarding medication review was less than ideal in this study, and there is a need for better understanding of the reasons for this. The low level of performance against the gold standard for medication review found here highlights that information is being incorrectly used or wrongly interpreted, irrespective of its availability. Performing medication reviews without using the available information in an optimal way can have implications for patient safety. A team approach may have had a greater impact and perhaps such an interdisciplinary strategy is another way of improving the quality of medication reviews. These results highlight the fact that there is room for improvement. We suggest that a combined approach between a CCDSS and the handmade medication reviews could mean an improvement in the quality of the medication reviews. The impact of using a computerized clinical decision support system in daily nursing home care practice will be investigated in a future study.

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## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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## Supplementary materials

### Case 1, stage 3

Ms XX, date of birth March 24, 1920. Reason for admission on June 18, 2011, deterioration in dementia. Medication review on July 20, 2011.

#### Medication

Aspirin 80 mg once daily  
 Bumetanide 1 mg once daily  
 Esomeprazole 40 mg once daily  
 Iron 200 mg three times daily  
 Metoprolol Retard 50 mg once daily  
 Isosorbide mononitrate, extended release 25 mg once daily  
 Potassium chloride 600 mg three times daily  
 Methimazole 10 mg once daily  
 Thiamine 50 mg once daily  
 Oxazepam 10 mg four times daily  
 Duratears® eye drops as needed  
 Vitamin B12 injection once a month  
 GaviLAX GlycoLax Miralax once daily  
 Metoclopramide 20 mg suppository as needed

#### Laboratory investigations

Description	Units	Reference range	14:34	14:39
Routine hematology (EDTA)				
Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	mm	0–19	9	
Hemoglobin	mmol/L	7.3–9.7	7.8	
MCV	fL	80–100	91	
Platelets	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	130–350	328	
Leukocytes	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	3.5–11.0	6.3	
Routine hematology (differentiation)				
Neutrophils	%	40–70	82 H	
Lymphocytes	%	15–48	13 L	
Monocytes	%	4–11	4	
Eosinophils	%	0–10	1	
Basophils	%	0–2	0	
LKC (serum chemistry)				
Sodium	mmol/L	135–145		132 L
Potassium	mmol/L	3.60–5.00		3.85
Urea	mmol/L	3.0–8.0		3.1
Creatinine	μmol/L	50–100		66
MDRD-eGFR	mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	>60		>60.0
NT-proBNP	pmol/L	<35		573 H
LKC hormones				
Unbound T4	pmol/L	8.0–18.0		11.2
TSH	mU/L	0.40–3.50		6.9 H
LKC vitamins				
Vitamin B12	pmol/L	250–850		980 H

**Note:** 14:34 and 14:39 is the time when the blood was analyzed.

**Abbreviations:** EDTA, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone; MCV, mean cell volume; MDRD, Modification of Diet in Renal Disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide; LKC, Laboratorium Klinische Chemie.

## Medical history

November 29, 2010 Dementia possibly Alzheimer's disease  
 November 29, 2010 Impaired mobility  
 November 1, 2010 Congestive heart failure with atrial fibrillation  
 November 1, 2010 Hyperthyroidism  
 January 29, 2010 Angina pectoris, treated conservatively  
 Date unknown, 2010 Delirium due to respiratory tract infection, visual and hearing loss  
 Date unknown, 2006 Right lower lobe pneumonia, hyponatremia, hypocalcemia with diarrhea and dehydration  
 Date unknown, 2005 Conjunctivitis, nonspecific colitis, and rectal bleeding  
 Date unknown, 2003 Esophagitis due to radiotherapy  
 Date unknown, 2002 Differentiated squamous cancer of the tongue treated with radiotherapy  
 Date unknown, 2001 Squamous cell carcinoma  
 Date unknown, 1999 Re-excision of squamous cell carcinoma on right cheek  
 Date unknown, 1994 pT2N1M0 breast cancer requiring mastectomy, axillary dissection, and hormonal therapy  
 Date unknown, 1989 Leukoplakia right cheek, treated with laser therapy  
 Date unknown, 1976 Well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma of the right cheek  
 Date unknown, Hysterectomy  
 Date unknown, Hypertension  
 Date unknown, Status post cataract surgery left eye

## Case 2, stage 3

Ms XY, birth date June 6, 1928.

Reason of admission, June 18, 2011, overall deterioration in Parkinson and delirium.

Date medication review: July 20, 2011.

## Medication

Levodopa/carbidopa (levodopa and decarboxylase inhibitor) prescribed by a neurologist

Allopurinol 100 mg three times daily

Esomeprazole 40 mg once daily

Solifenacin 5 mg once daily

Haloperidol 1 mg once daily if needed

Furosemide 40 mg once daily

GaviLAX GlycoLax Miralax once daily

Valsartan 80 mg once daily

## Laboratory investigations

Description	Units	Reference range	April 3, 2011		June 15, 2011	June 29, 2011
			14:28	14:39	14:03	15:49
Routine hematology (EDTA)						
Hemoglobin	mmol/L	7.3–9.7		8.1		
Hematocrit	L/L	0.36–0.48		0.38		
MCV	fL	80–100		93		
LKC (serum chemistry)						
Sodium	mmol/L	135–145	130 L		122 L	
Potassium	mmol/L	3.60–5.00	4.21		5.13 H	
Urea	mmol/L	3.0–8.0	5.9		6.4	
Creatinine	μmol/L	50–100	76		104	
MDRD-eGFR	mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	>60	>60.0		45 L	

(Continued)

**Laboratory investigations**

Description	Units	Reference range	April 3, 2011		June 15, 2011	June 29, 2011
			14:28	14:39	14:03	15:49
LKC (hormones)						
TSH	mU/L	0.40–3.50				0.6
LKC (vitamins)						
Vitamin B1	nmol/L	100–230				161
Vitamin B6	nmol/L	50–200				537 H
Vitamin B12	pmol/L	250–850				214 L
Folic acid	nmol/L	3–20				>45.0 H

**Note:** 14:28, 14:39, 14:03 and 15:49 is the time when the blood was analyzed.

**Abbreviations:** EDTA, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone; MCV, mean cell volume; MDRD, Modification of Diet in Renal Disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; LKC, Laboratorium Klinische Chemie.

**Medical history**

May 28, 2011 Hypertension

April 1, 2010 Neuropsychological tests

Date unknown, 2009 Obstructive sleep apnea syndrome with fatigue

Date unknown, 2008 Chronic constipation

Date unknown, 2007 Parkinson's disease

Date unknown, 2006 Sensorineural hearing impairment

Date unknown, 2003 Pain left knee, with medial gonarthrosis

Date unknown, 1995 Abdominal pain, probably due to weak abdominal wall

Date unknown, 1990 Osteoporosis

Date unknown, Breast implants due to cyst formation

Date unknown, Appendectomy

Date unknown, Herniotomy both sides

Date unknown, Gout

**Case 3, stage 3**

Ms XZ, date of birth August 5, 1915.

Reason of admission, June 18, 2011, pneumonia with general deterioration and drowsiness.

Date medication review: June 20, 2011.

**Medication**

Acetylsalicylic acid 80 mg once daily

Alendronate 70 mg once weekly

Bumetanide 1 mg once daily

Isosorbide mononitrate Retard 50 mg once daily

Metoprolol 100 mg once daily

Simvastatin 40 mg once daily

Calcium/vitamin D 1,000 mg/880 IU once daily

Oxynorm 10 mg, 10 pm, once daily

Oxycontin 5 mg as needed

Duratears® eye drops as needed

Esomeprazole 20 mg once daily if needed

Metoclopramide 10 mg as needed

Ibuprofen 600 mg three times daily

Miconazole cream as needed

Temazepam 10 mg twice daily

Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid 500/125 mg three times daily

**Laboratory values**

Description	Units	Reference range	June 7, 2011	
			14:34	14:39
Routine hematology (EDTA)				
Sedimentation	mm	0–19	43 H	
Leucocytes	10E <sup>9</sup> /L	3.5–11.0	6.6	
LKC serum chemistry				
Glucose	mmol/L	3.6–6.1		18 H
Urea	mmol/L	3.0–8.0		9.7 H
Creatinine	μmol/L	50–100		160 H
MDRD-eGFR	mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	>60		26 L
CRP	mg/L	<10		9
Folic acid	nmol/L	3–20		>45.0 H

**Note:** 14:34 and 14:39 is the time when the blood was analyzed.

**Abbreviations:** CRP, C-reactive protein; EDTA, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; MDRD, Modification of Diet in Renal Disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; LKC, Laboratorium Klinische Chemie.

**Medical history**

June 18, 2011 Pneumonia

April 2, 2010 *Clostridium difficile* infection

November 13, 2009 Sicca symptoms (dry eye)

September 10, 2009 Chronic constipation

May 8, 2009 Hypothyroidism

May 30, 2009 Restless legs syndrome

June 30, 2008 Phacoemulsification + intraocular lens implantation OS (left side)

February 25, 2008 Cataract ODS (left and right side)

November 10, 2000 Dermatochalasis correction, left and right

May 16, 2000 Dermatochalasis

January 17, 1995 Viral conjunctivitis

January 3, 1995 Osteoporosis

January 3, 1995 Symptomatic peripheral vascular disease OD (right side)

Date unknown, Myocardial infarction and heart failure

Date unknown, Hypertension with left ventricular hypertrophy

Date unknown, Penicillin allergy

Date unknown, Hernia nuclei pulposi

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