

FATE

FOUNDATION AIDING THE ELDERLY

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STUDY SHOWS INCREASE IN DRUG RELATED FALLS AND DEATHS

A recent study published in "Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety (PDS) reports that in more than 370,000 deaths between 1999 and 2017, the use of fall-risk increasing drugs, and deaths due to falls, are on the rise

(<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/pds.5201>).

As well, the percent of people receiving at least one prescription for a fall risk-increasing drug went from 57% in 1999 to 94% in 2017. The take away from the study is clear: doctors are prescribing more drugs, especially antidepressants and antihypertensives that increase the risk that the person taking them will fall. The number of prescriptions for antidepressants increased four times over the 18 years of the study. The study also found that black women were more likely than men to be prescribed fall-risk increasing drugs, while white women aged 85 and older were the group with the most significant increase in deaths from falls...an increase of 160% between 1999 and 2017. Before taking any prescribed medication, talk to your pharmacists about the adverse side effects in order to protect yourself from any injuries that may result from the medication.

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