

From coast to coast, seniors' organizations are advocating for equal access to prescription medications. However, equal access is only part of the equation. Medication safety and appropriateness is a health priority for seniors too.

Canada has a problem



What is risky medication use?

Risky medication use means taking too many medications or taking drugs that may do more harm than good.



Risky medications are common

Nearly **2 million** Canadian seniors regularly take at least one risky medication (CIHI 2018).



Every day, seniors are harmed by risky medication use

Seniors are hospitalized five times more often than people under age 65 due to harmful effects of their medications (CIHI 2013).

Risky medication use can cause harmful effects:



Falls & fractures



Hospitalizations



Memory problems



Loss of independence

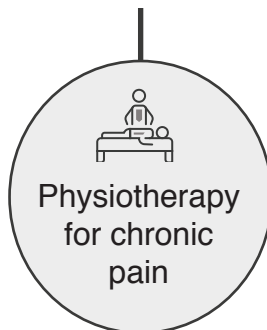
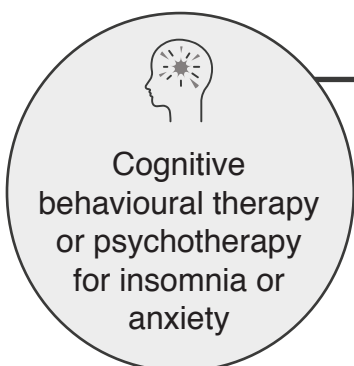
Canadians pay the price for harms caused by risky medication use



\$1.4 billion

in taxpayer dollars is spent every year treating health problems in older adults caused by risky medications (Morgan *et al.* 2016).

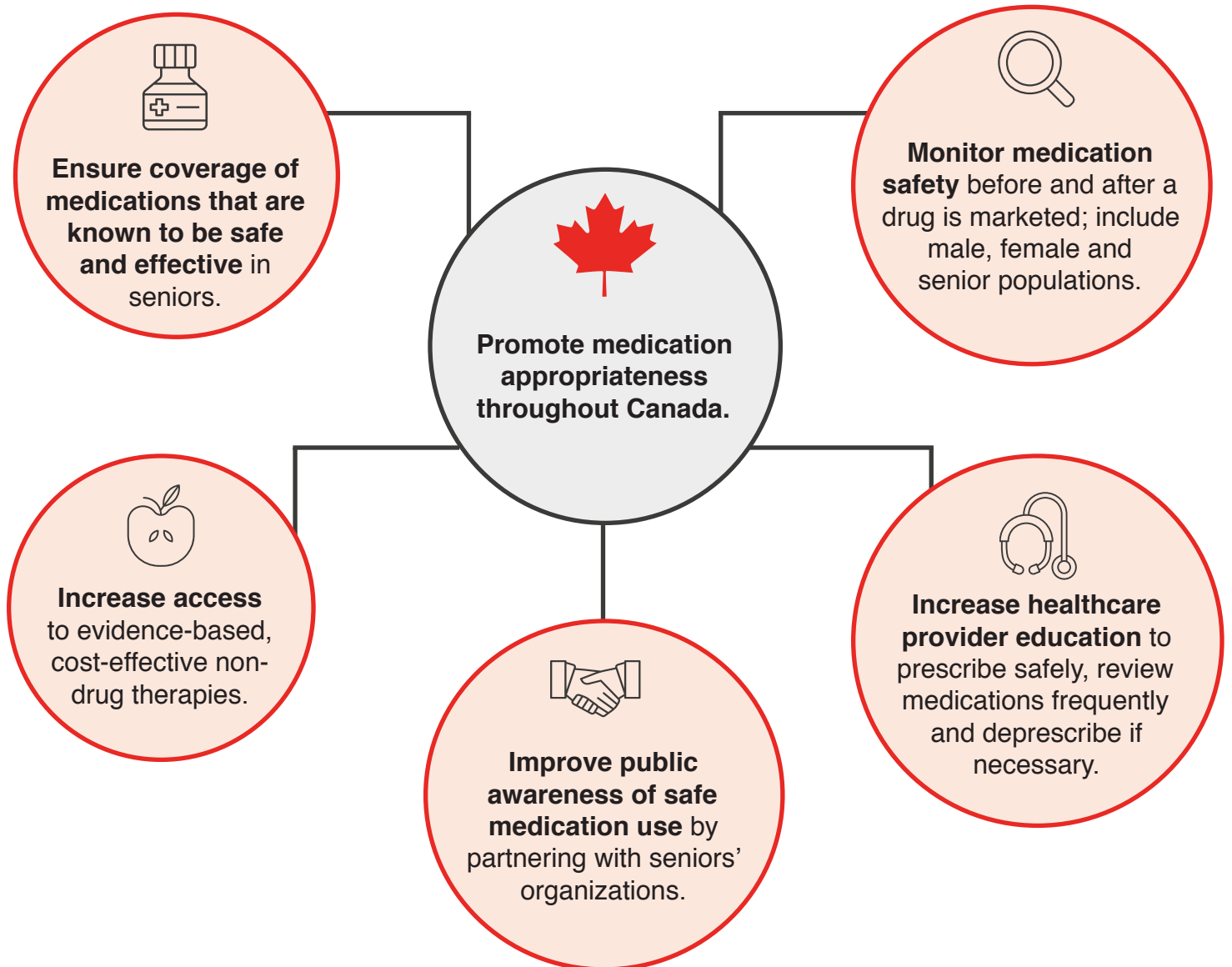
This wasted money could be spent on safer evidence-based treatments, such as:



Turn the page to find out what can be done



A national medication appropriateness plan would:



Let's make this happen!



Speak to your local government representatives or send them this brochure.



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Learn more about appropriate use of medications and medication safety:
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