

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 should be a health priority for seniors too.

## Canada has a problem



### 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 medications

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



### What are risky medications?

Risky medications are drugs that may do more harm than good.

### Risky medications can cause harmful effects:



Falls



Memory problems



Fractures



Hospitalizations

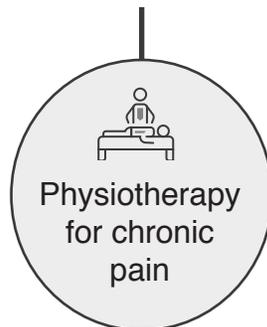
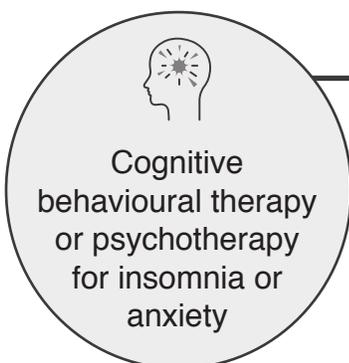
## Everyone pays the price for Canada's high use of risky medications



**\$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:

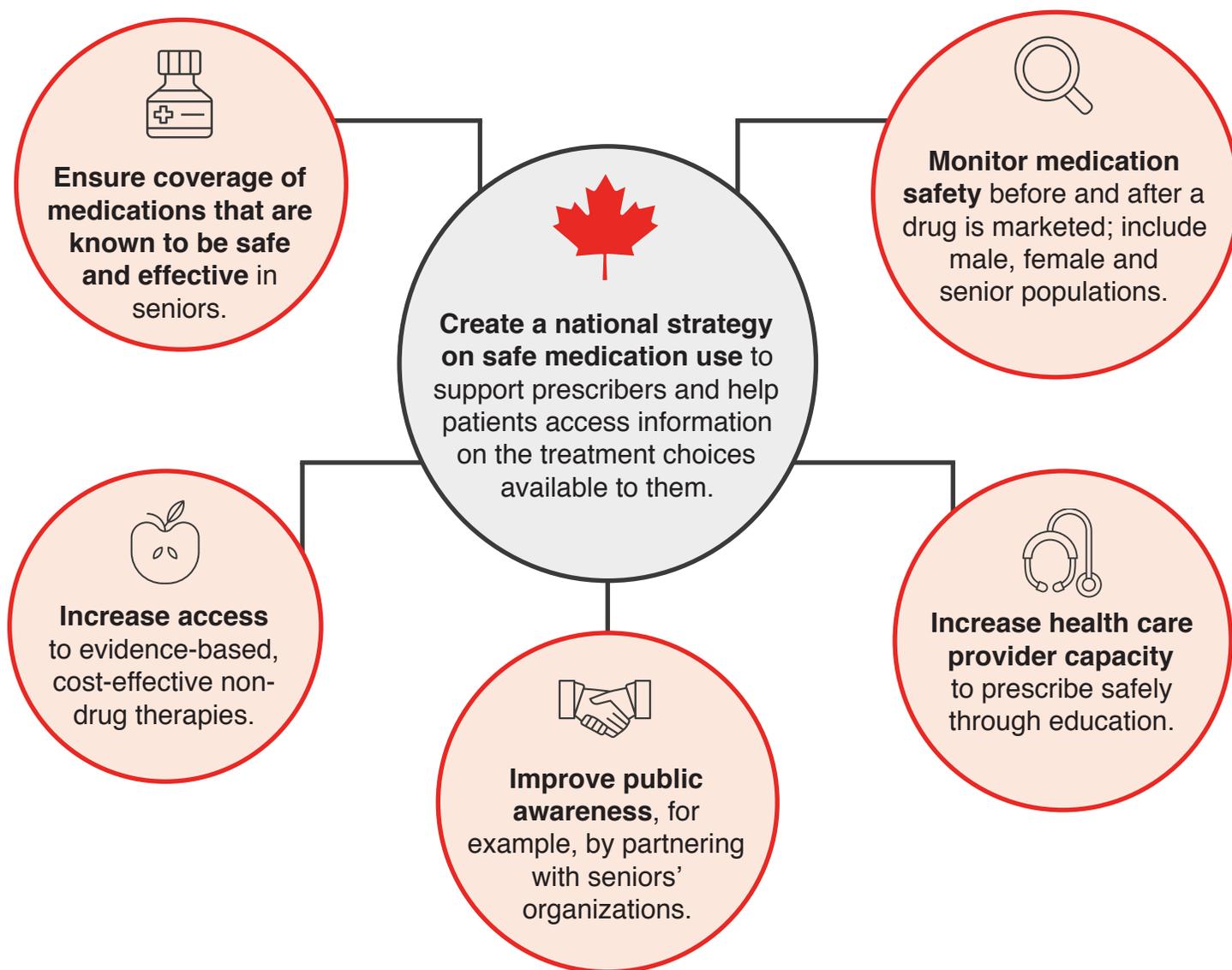


Turn the page to find out what can be done





## What can be done to improve medication safety for older Canadians?



### Let's make this happen!



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



**Spread the word** to your neighbours, family, friends and advocacy groups. Share on social media and tag us on Twitter [@DeprescribeNet](https://twitter.com/DeprescribeNet) or on Facebook [@DeprescribingNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/DeprescribingNetwork)



**Learn more** about appropriate use of medications and medication safety: [deprescribingnetwork.ca](http://deprescribingnetwork.ca)