The Importance of the Diversity & Inclusion Across the Healthcare Continuum
Neuropsychiatric Symptoms/Alzheimer’s Dementia
Sue Peschin, MHS
President and CEO
Alliance for Aging Research
SCIENCE CAN HELP
PEOPLE LIVE LONGER,
MORE PRODUCTIVE LIVES

WHO WE ARE
The Alliance for Aging Research is the leading non-profit organization
dedicated to accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and their
application in order to vastly improve the universal human experience of
aging and health. WWW.AGINGRESEARCH.ORG

Catalyzing Innovation for Healthy Aging
Neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) in ADRD are significant areas of unmet need for patients and family caregivers

- Neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) such as depression, agitation, apathy, psychosis, and sleep disorders are among the most common and distressing symptoms for people with dementia and their family caregivers
- Among people with Alzheimer disease, depression is the earliest observable symptom in at least one-third of cases
- Additionally, milder symptoms of agitation may manifest early and increase in prevalence and severity with worsening of dementia, often leading to an increase in family caregiver burden, greater morbidity, poorer quality of life, increased cost of care, rapid disease progression, and institutionalization
- NPS often makes people ineligible for supported housing and other minimally restrictive housing environments
- Lack of stimulation and environmental cues in the nursing home environment may exacerbate cognitive and behavioral symptoms
- Cognitive impairment also makes older people especially vulnerable to fraud, which may be perpetrated by family members or other close relatives and friends
The AGS Beers Criteria® for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults

- Neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) in Alzheimer’s disease
  - dextromethorphan/quinidine in the treatment of pseudobulbar affect (PBA)
- Antipsychotics
- Bleeding and Atrial Fibrillation

September 4, 2018
American Geriatrics Society
40 Fulton Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: American Geriatrics Society 2018 Updated Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults – Joint Comment Letter

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, the National Minority Quality Forum is submitting this joint comment on the 2018 Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults. As advocates for healthcare delivery and financing policies that are grounded in scientific and clinical evidence, we are writing to express concern about the methodology and lack of transparency regarding the evidence upon which the 2018 AGS interdisciplinary expert panel based its 2018 Updated Beers Criteria.

We are concerned that the methodology employed by AGS in the development of the 2018 Beers Criteria does not adequately address the growing evidence suggesting that certain medications may increase risk of adverse outcomes in older adults.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
Caregiver Action Network
Caregiver Voices United
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Minority Quality Forum
International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) Expert Working Group on Agitation and Psychosis in Alzheimer’s disease

• Re-examine the criteria for agitation and psychosis in Alzheimer’s disease
• Goal: Provide updated criteria for clinical use, research application, and clinical trials
• Publish the updated criteria and to promote their use
• Meeting was held on March 31 in Lisbon, Portugal and co-chaired by:
  – IPA President Dr. Mary Sano, Associate Dean for Clinical Research and Professor of Psychiatry and The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York
  – Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, Director of the Center for Neurodegeneration and Translational Neuroscience, Director Emeritus at the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, and Professor at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine
• Discussed FDA/CMS regulatory and public policy implications, as well as the patient advocacy perspective