

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 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

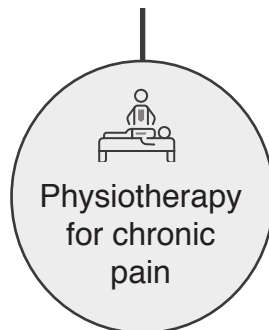
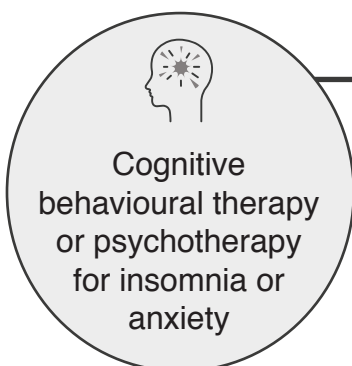
Everyone pays the price for Canada's high use of risky medications



\$1.4 billion

in taxpayer dollars is spent every year fixing 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:

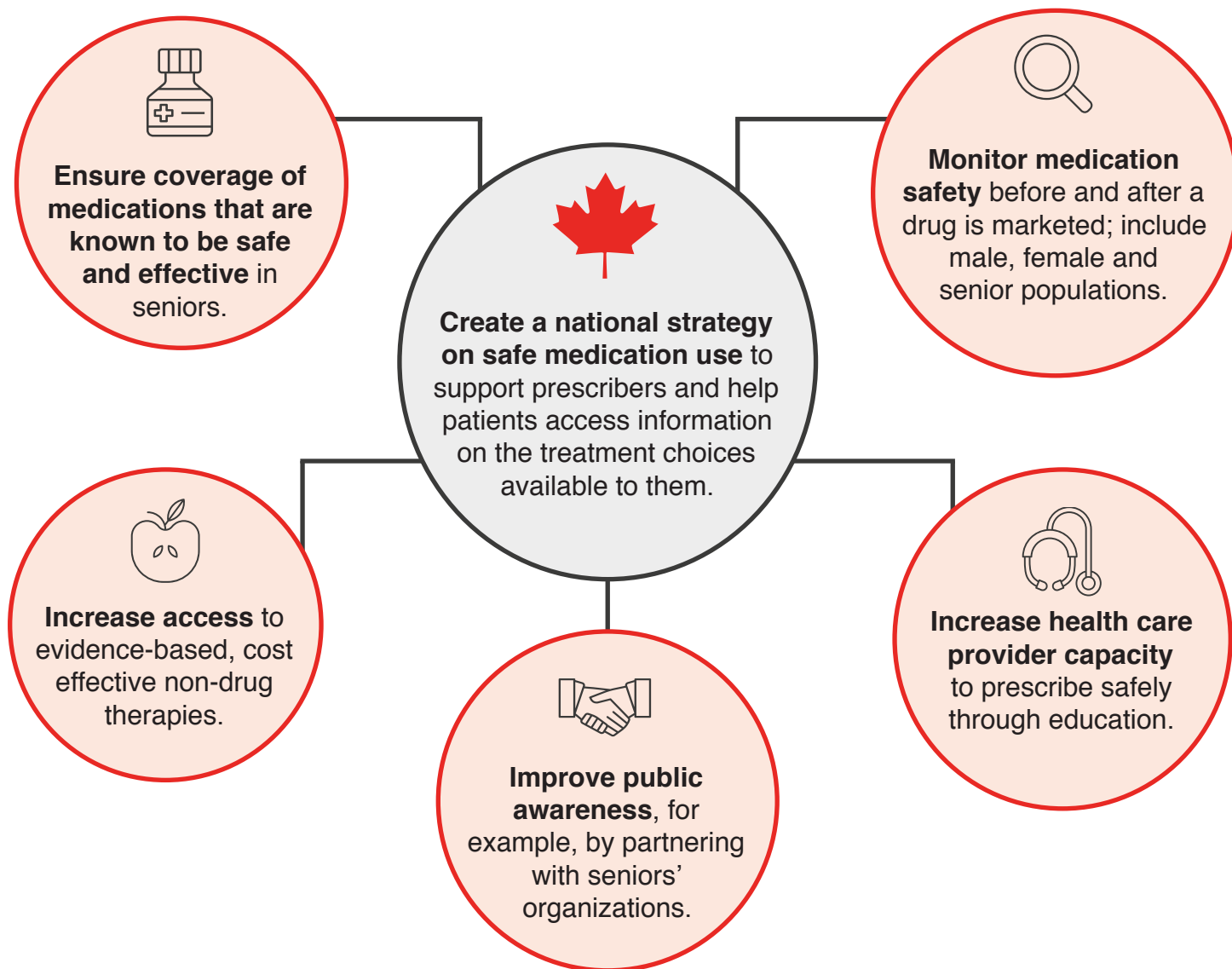


Turn the page to find out what can be done





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