

Masterclass PCDS NI 2023

Frailty, Diabetes & Desprescribing

Barry Keenan : Clinical Pharmacist



Western Health
and Social Care Trust

Acknowledgements

- Dr Ailish Nugent Belfast City Hospital
- Dr Lisa Devine GP Special Interest in Diabetes.
- Hannah Beba Consultant Pharmacist Leeds Health & care Partnership
- Fionnuala McCullagh Clinical Pharmacist WHSCT
- Marianne McKenna Clinical Pharmacist WHSCT



Disclosures

3

Within last 3 years have received honoraria for delivering or chairing education meetings from:

Novo Nordisk

Received payment for acting as tutor for QUB for advanced practice clinical pharmacy programmes.

Aims of session

- Assessing frailty and Risk
- When is it appropriate to stop and reduce treatments
- Principles of deprescribing and follow up.

Frailty-Definition

'Frailty is a distinctive health state related to the aging process in which multiple body systems gradually lose their in-built reserves'

(British Geriatrics Society)

NB: Old does not equal frail



What else is involved?

- Polypharmacy
- Cognitive Impairment
- Depression
- Urinary Incontinence
- Injurious falls
- Chronic pain
- Co-morbidities



Weight loss



Exhaustion



Low gait speed



Low grip
strength



Low physical
activity

Diabetes & Frailty

- Frailty is increasingly recognised as a complication of diabetes (~40% >65 yrs with diabetes have frailty)
- Type 2 diabetes is associated with accelerated biological aging (~10yr difference in exercise performance)
- Population is aging which increases prevalence of diabetes (~40% PLWD >70yrs)
- Increasing age and diabetes are risk factors for functional decline and disability






Frailty – Assessment tools: Electronic Frailty Index eFI





- The eFI uses existing electronic health records and a ‘cumulative deficit’ model to measure frailty on the basis of the accumulation of a range of deficits.
- These deficits include clinical signs (e.g. tremor), symptoms (e.g. vision problems), diseases, disabilities and abnormal test values.
- Higher scores=higher likelihood of frailty = higher risk adverse outcome
- 0.24 > moderate 0.36> severe

NB requires clinical judgement

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/clinical-policy/older-people/frailty/efi/#the-contract-requires-general-practice-to-use-an-appropriate-tool-for-example-the-electronic-frailty-index-efi-what-is-the-efi>

CLINICAL FRAILITY SCALE

	1	VERY FIT	People who are robust, active, energetic and motivated. They tend to exercise regularly and are among the fittest for their age.
	2	FIT	People who have no active disease symptoms but are less fit than category 1. Often, they exercise or are very active occasionally , e.g., seasonally.
	3	MANAGING WELL	People whose medical problems are well controlled , even if occasionally symptomatic, but often are not regularly active beyond routine walking.
	4	LIVING WITH VERY MILD FRAILITY	Previously "vulnerable," this category marks early transition from complete independence. While not dependent on others for daily help, often symptoms limit activities . A common complaint is being "slowed up" and/or being tired during the day.
	5	LIVING WITH MILD FRAILITY	People who often have more evident slowing , and need help with high order instrumental activities of daily living (finances, transportation, heavy housework). Typically, mild frailty progressively impairs shopping and walking outside alone, meal preparation, medications and begins to restrict light housework.

	6	LIVING WITH MODERATE FRAILITY	People who need help with all outside activities and with keeping house . Inside, they often have problems with stairs and need help with bathing and might need minimal assistance (cuing, standby) with dressing.
	7	LIVING WITH SEVERE FRAILITY	Completely dependent for personal care , from whatever cause (physical or cognitive). Even so, they seem stable and not at high risk of dying (within ~6 months).
	8	LIVING WITH VERY SEVERE FRAILITY	Completely dependent for personal care and approaching end of life. Typically, they could not recover even from a minor illness.
	9	TERMINALLY ILL	Approaching the end of life. This category applies to people with a life expectancy <6 months , who are not otherwise living with severe frailty . (Many terminally ill people can still exercise until very close to death.)

SCORING FRAILITY IN PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

The degree of frailty generally corresponds to the degree of dementia. Common **symptoms in mild dementia** include forgetting the details of a recent event, though still remembering the event itself, repeating the same question/story and social withdrawal.

In **moderate dementia**, recent memory is very impaired, even though they seemingly can remember their past life events well. They can do personal care with prompting.

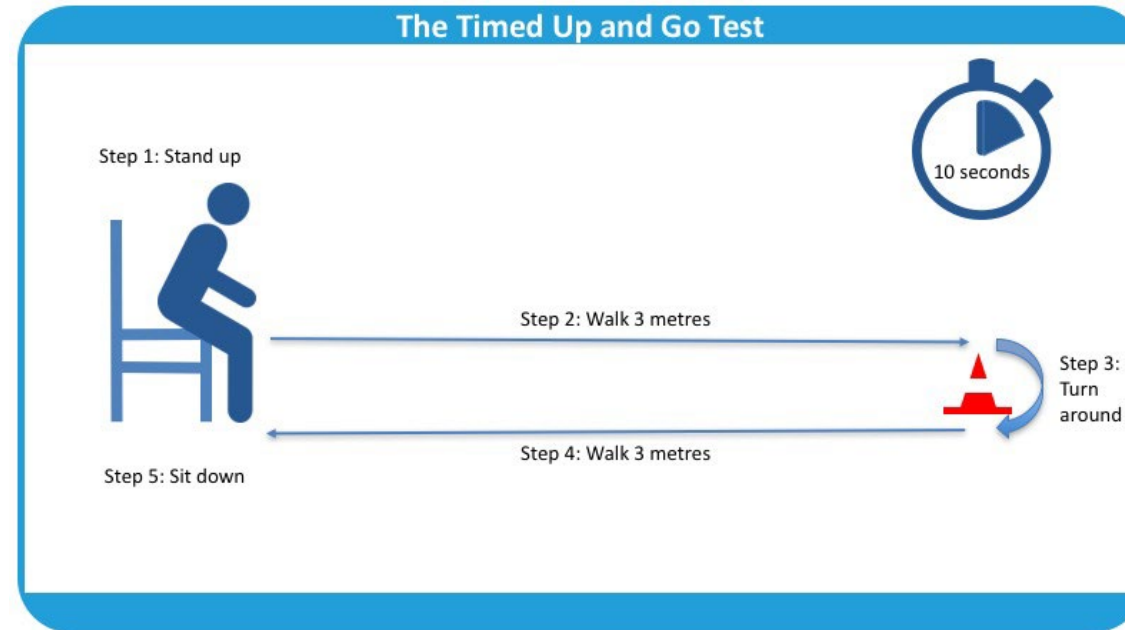
In **severe dementia**, they cannot do personal care without help.

In **very severe dementia** they are often bedfast. Many are virtually mute.



Clinical Frailty Scale ©2005–2020 Rockwood, Version 2.0 (EN). All rights reserved. For permission: www.geriatricmedicine-research.ca
Rockwood K et al. A global clinical measure of fitness and frailty in elderly people. CMAJ 2005;173:489–495.

Frailty Assessment tool: Timed Up and Go Test



- ▶ Times >14-20 seconds indicate increased risk of falls
- ▶ *Other tools: Prisma 7, Gait Speed test, Sarc-F test*

NHS RightCare: Frailty Toolkit

Optimising a frailty system

Increasing numbers of people are at risk of developing frailty. People living with frailty are experiencing unwarranted variation in their care.

This toolkit will provide you with expert practical advice and guidance on how to commission and provide the best system wide care for people living with frailty.

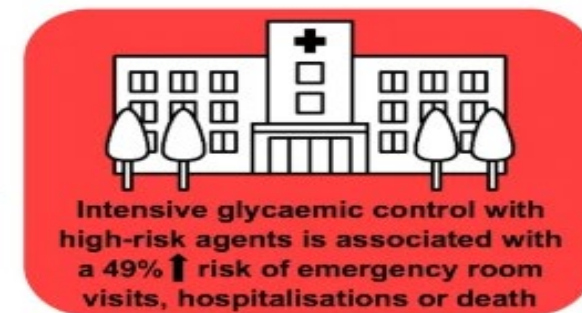
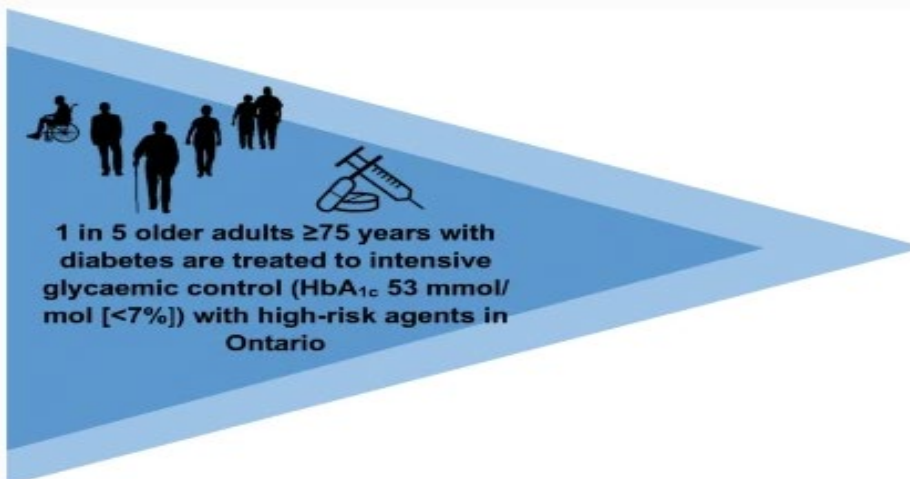
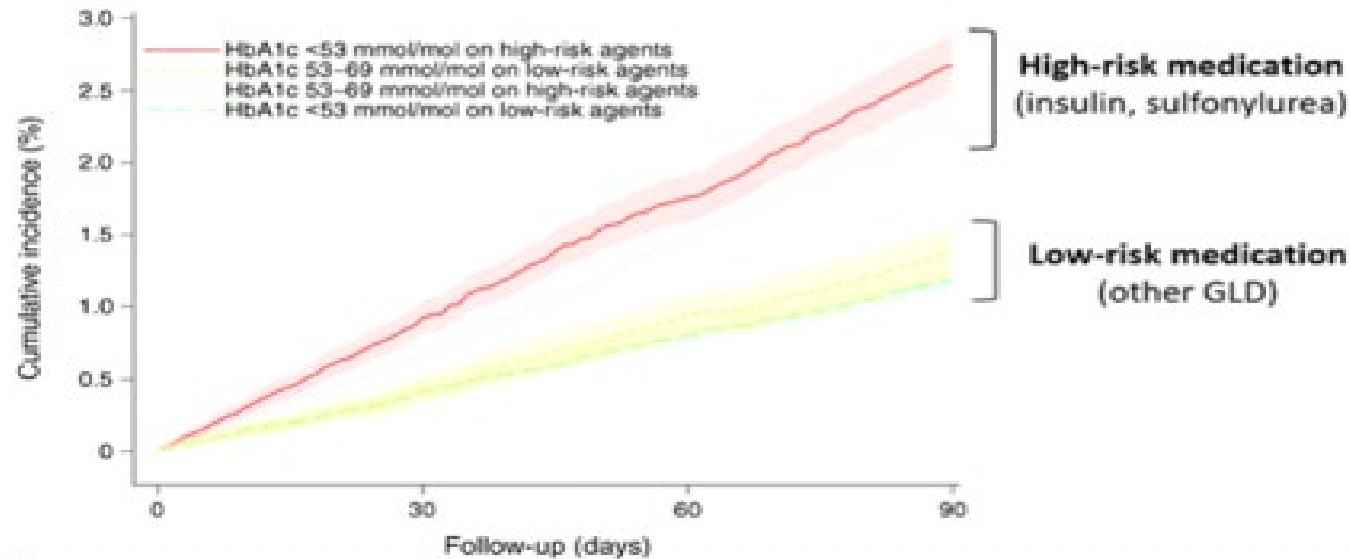
June 2019
Gateway ref: 000513

Diabetes & Frailty & Prescribing challenges

- Less benefits of tight glycaemic control but avoid hyperglycaemia.
- Increased risk of side-effects of treatments (hypoglycaemia, GI, urinary)
- Shorter life expectancy
- Increased co-morbidity (dementia, CKD)
- Self management may be a challenge
- Oral intake may decline, variable
- Most RCTs in younger populations
- Most prescribers not specialist in diabetes

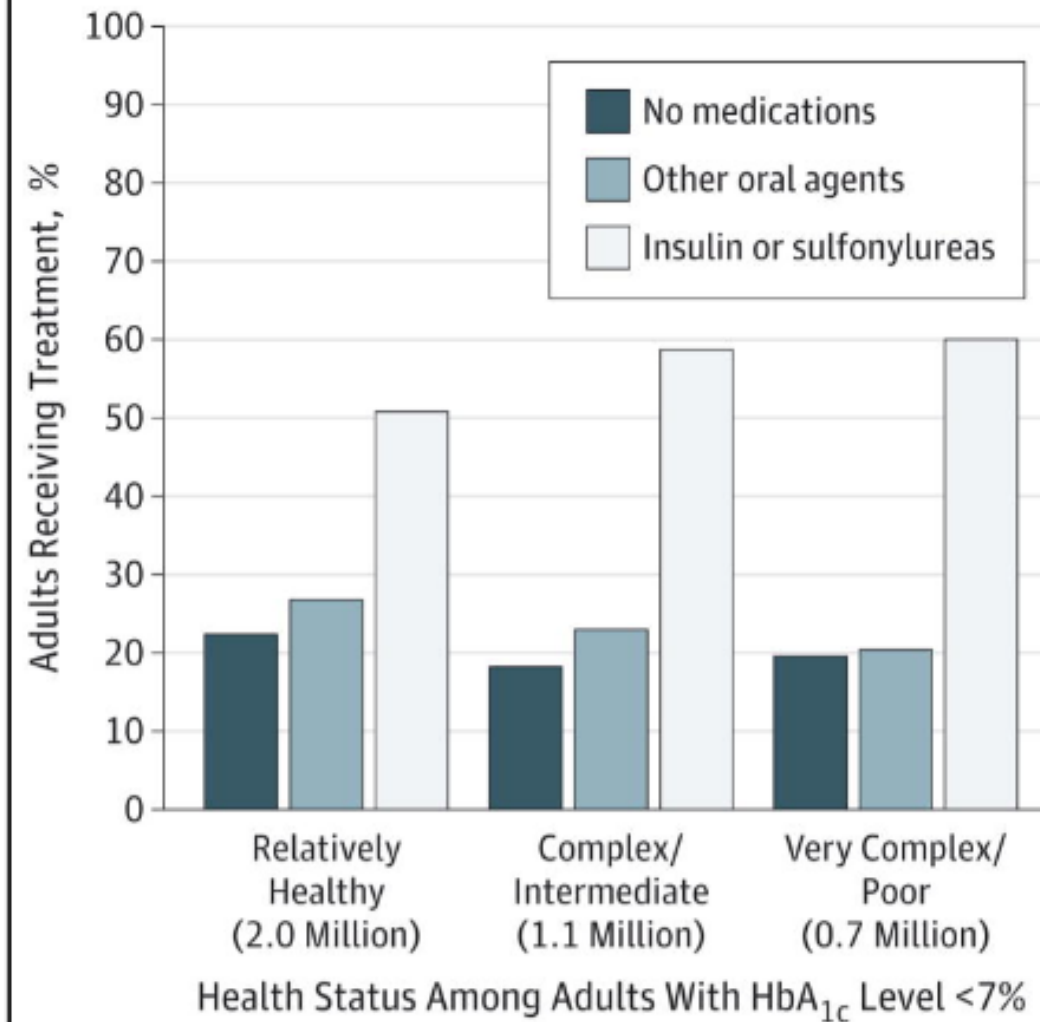
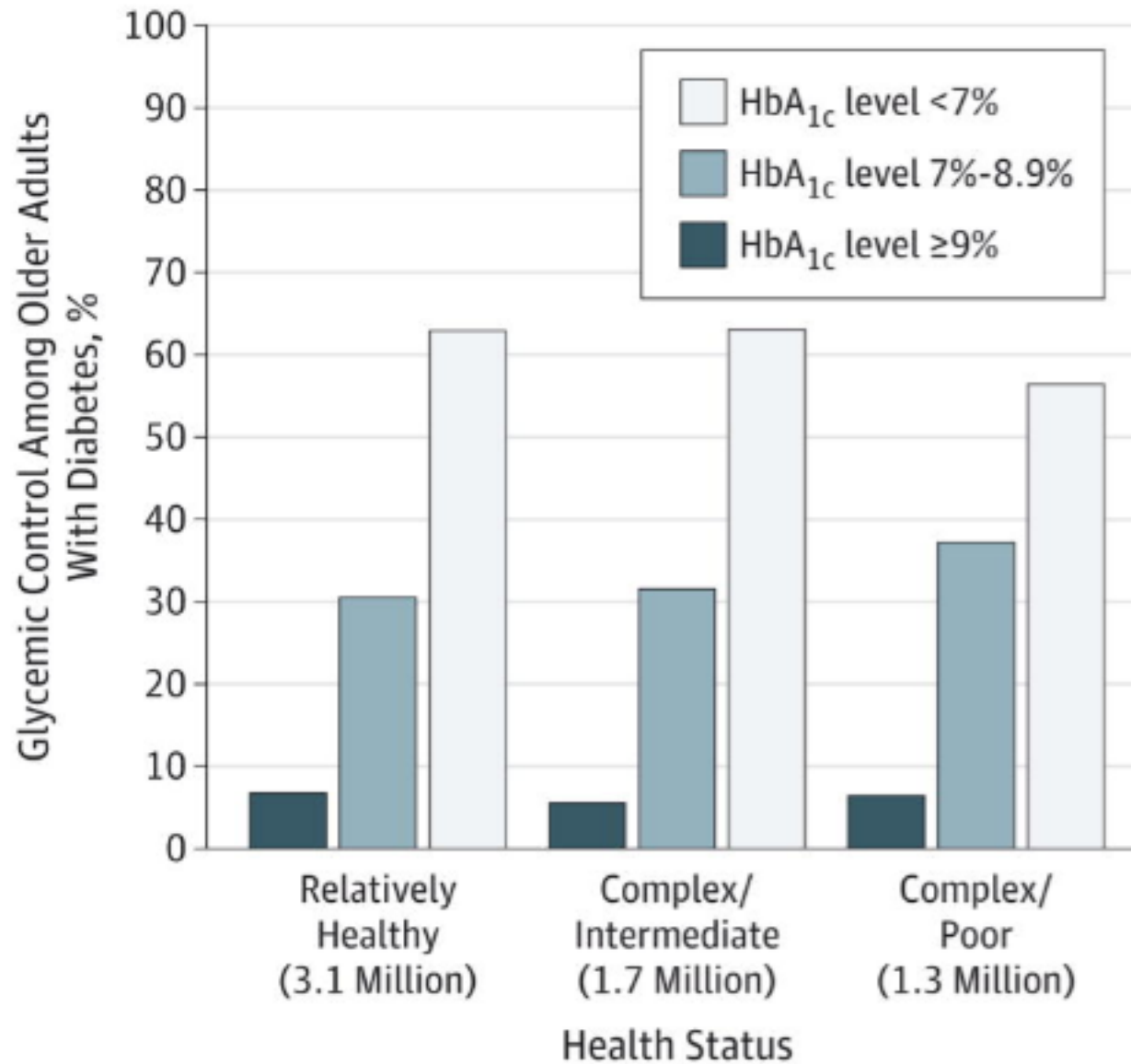
Evidence of overtreatment

Cumulative incidence of diabetes-related ED-visits/hospitalisations and all-cause mortality

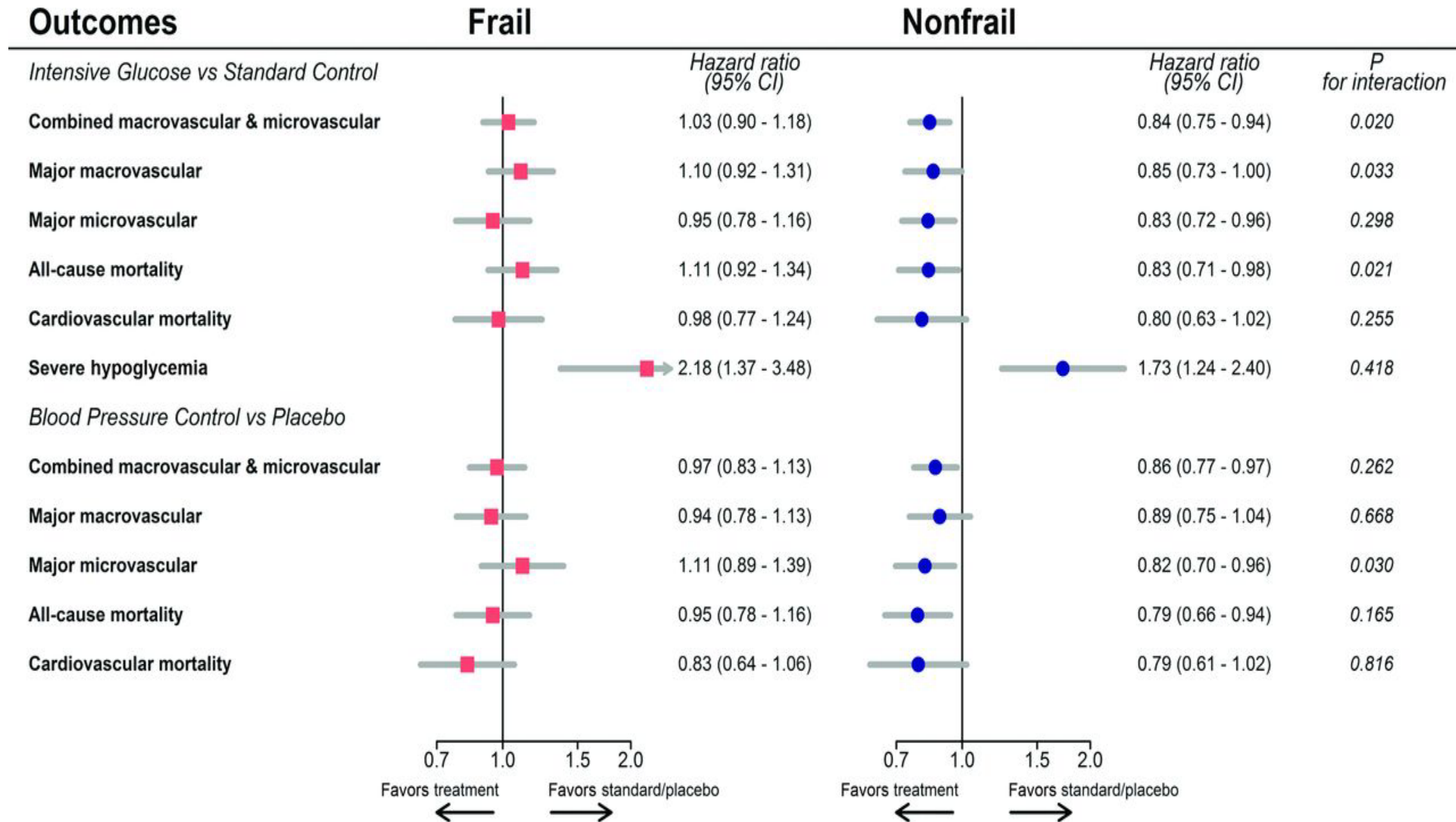


Lega, I.C., Campitelli, M.A., Austin, P.C. *et al.* Potential diabetes overtreatment and risk of adverse events among older adults in Ontario: a population-based study. *Diabetologia* **64**, 1093–1102 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00125-020-05370-7>

Evidence of overtreatment



The Impact of Frailty on the Effectiveness and Safety of Intensive Glucose Control and Blood Pressure–Lowering Therapy for People With Type 2 Diabetes: Results From the ADVANCE Trial



Hypoglycaemia

Common in older people, particularly dementia, CKD

Often under-reported

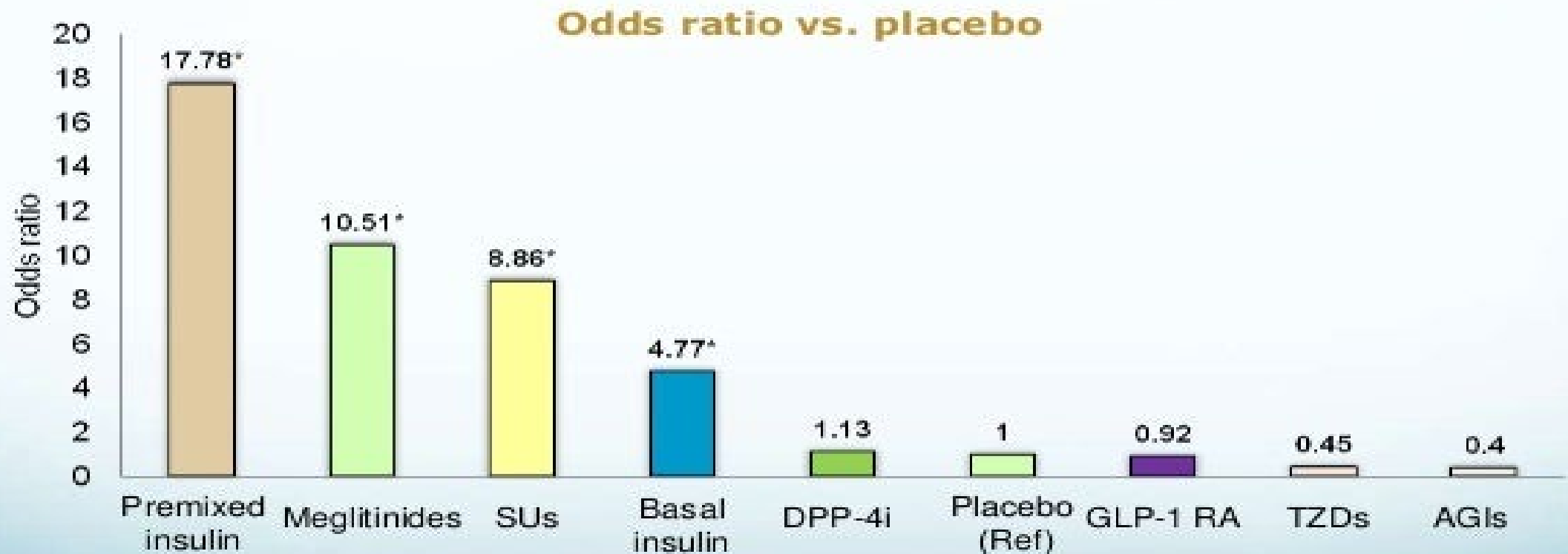
Reduced hormonal counter-regulatory responses

Increased neuroglycopenia

Consequences- falls, fractures, hospital admission,
cardiovascular events, mortality, accelerated cognitive decline

Overall risk of hypoglycemia

Network meta-analysis comparing antihyperglycemic drugs as add-on to metformin



*Statistically significant vs. placebo. TZDs=thiazolidinediones; AGIs=alpha-glucosidase inhibitors; GLP-1=glucagon-like Peptide 1; DPP-4=dipeptidyl peptidase-4.

1. Liu, Sung-Chen et al. *Diab Obes & Metab* 2012; 14:810-820.

So what Guidance is available?

Diabetologia (2022) 65:1925–1966
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00125-022-05787-2>

CONSENSUS REPORT



Management of hyperglycaemia in type 2 diabetes, 2022. A consensus report by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)

Melanie J. Davies^{1,2} • Vanita R. Aroda³ • Billy S. Collins⁴ • Robert A. Gabbay⁵ • Jennifer Green⁶ •
Nisa M. Maruthur⁷ • Sylvia E. Rosas⁸ • Stefano Del Prato⁹ • Chantal Mathieu¹⁰ • Geltrude Mingrone^{11,12,13} •
Peter Rossing^{14,15} • Tsvetelina Tankova¹⁶ • Apostolos Tsapas^{17,18} • John B. Buse¹⁹

Received: 2 August 2022 / Accepted: 18 August 2022 / Published online: 24 September 2022
© American Diabetes Association and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes 2022

NICE National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence

Search NICE...

Guidance ▼

Standards and
indicators ▼

Life
sciences ▼

British National
Formulary (BNF) ▼

British National Formulary
for Children (BNFC) ▼

Clin
Sun

[Home](#) > [NICE Guidance](#) > [Conditions and diseases](#) > [Diabetes and other endocrinal, nutritional and metabolic conditio](#)

Type 2 diabetes in adults: management

Diabetes Ther (2021) 12:1227–1247
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13300-021-01035-9>

REVIEW

Diabetes and Frailty: An Expert Consensus Statement on the Management of Older Adults with Type 2 Diabetes

W. David Strain • Su Down • Pam Brown • Amar Puttanna •
Alan Sinclair

POSITION STATEMENT



Association of British Clinical Diabetologists

Managing frailty and associated comorbidities in older adults with diabetes: Position Statement on behalf of the Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD)

ALAN SINCLAIR,¹ ALISON GALLAGHER²

JBDS-IP Joint British
Diabetes Societies
for inpatient care

Inpatient Care of the Frail Older Adult
with Diabetes
February 2023

Type 2 diabetes in adults: management

NICE guideline [NG28] Published: 02 December 2015 Last updated: 29 June 2022

- ▶ **1.1 Individualised care**
- ▶ 1.1.1 Adopt an individualised approach to diabetes care that is tailored to the needs and circumstances of adults with type 2 diabetes, taking into account their personal preferences, comorbidities and risks from polypharmacy, and their likelihood of benefiting from long-term interventions. Such an approach is especially important in the context of multimorbidity. **[2015, amended 2022]**
- ▶ 1.1.2 Reassess the person's needs and circumstances at each review and think about whether to stop any medicines that are not effective. **[2015]**
- ▶ 1.1.3 Take into account any disabilities, including visual impairment, when planning and delivering care for adults with type 2 diabetes. **[2015]**



Management of hyperglycaemia in type 2 diabetes, 2022. A consensus report by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)

Melanie J. Davies^{1,2} • Vanita R. Aroda³ • Billy S. Collins⁴ • Robert A. Gabbay⁵ • Jennifer Green⁶ •
Nisa M. Maruthur⁷ • Sylvia E. Rosas⁸ • Stefano Del Prato⁹ • Chantal Mathieu¹⁰ • Geltrude Mingrone^{11,12,13} •
Peter Rossing^{14,15} • Tsvetalina Tankova¹⁶ • Apostolos Tsapas^{17,18} • John B. Buse¹⁹

Received: 2 August 2022 / Accepted: 18 August 2022 / Published online: 24 September 2022
© American Diabetes Association and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes 2022

- Medication choices for those who are frail or have multiple co-morbidities may require modification for safety and tolerability
- Cardiovascular and renal benefits of GLP-1 agonists and SGLT2Is in patients >65 years are consistent with effects seen in overall population
- Recommendations for selection of medications to improve cardiovascular and renal outcomes in diabetes do not differ for older people

IMPORTANCE OF 24-HOUR PHYSICAL BEHAVIORS FOR TYPE 2 DIABETES

SITTING/BREAKING UP PROLONGED SITTING

Limit sitting. Breaking up prolonged sitting (every 30 min) with short regular bouts of slow walking/simple resistance exercises can improve glucose metabolism.



STEPPING

- An increase of only 500 steps/day is associated with 2-9% decreased risk of cardiovascular morbidity and all-cause mortality.
- A 5- to 6-min brisk-intensity walk per day equates to ~4 years' greater life expectancy.



SLEEP

Aim for consistent, uninterrupted sleep, even on weekends.



Quantity - Long (>8h) and short (<6 h) sleep durations negatively impact A1C.



Quality - Irregular sleep results in poorer glycemic levels, likely influenced by the increased prevalence of insomnia, obstructive sleep apnea, and restless leg syndrome in people with type 2 diabetes.



Chronotype - Evening chronotypes (i.e., night owl: go to bed late and get up late) may be more susceptible to inactivity and poorer glycemic levels vs. morning chronotypes (i.e., early bird: go to bed early and get up early).



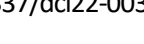
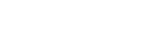
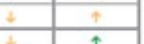
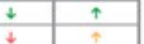
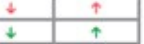
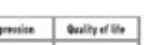
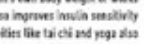
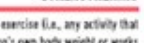
SWEATING (MODERATE-TO-VIGOROUS ACTIVITY)

- Encourage ~150 min/week of moderate-intensity physical activity (i.e., uses large muscle groups, rhythmic in nature) OR ~75 min/week vigorous-intensity activity spread over ≥3 days/week, with no more than 2 consecutive days of inactivity. Supplement with two to three resistance, flexibility, and/or balance sessions.
- As little as 30 min/week of moderate-intensity physical activity improves metabolic profiles.



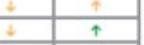
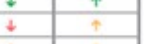
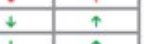
Physical function/ frailty/ sarcopenia

- The frailty phenotype in type 2 diabetes is unique, often encompassing obesity alongside physical frailty, at an earlier age. The ability of people with type 2 diabetes to undertake simple functional exercises in middle age is similar to that in those over a decade older.



STRENGTHENING

Resistance exercise (i.e., any activity that uses the person's own body weight or works against a resistance) also improves insulin sensitivity and glucose levels; activities like tai chi and yoga also encompass elements of flexibility and balance.

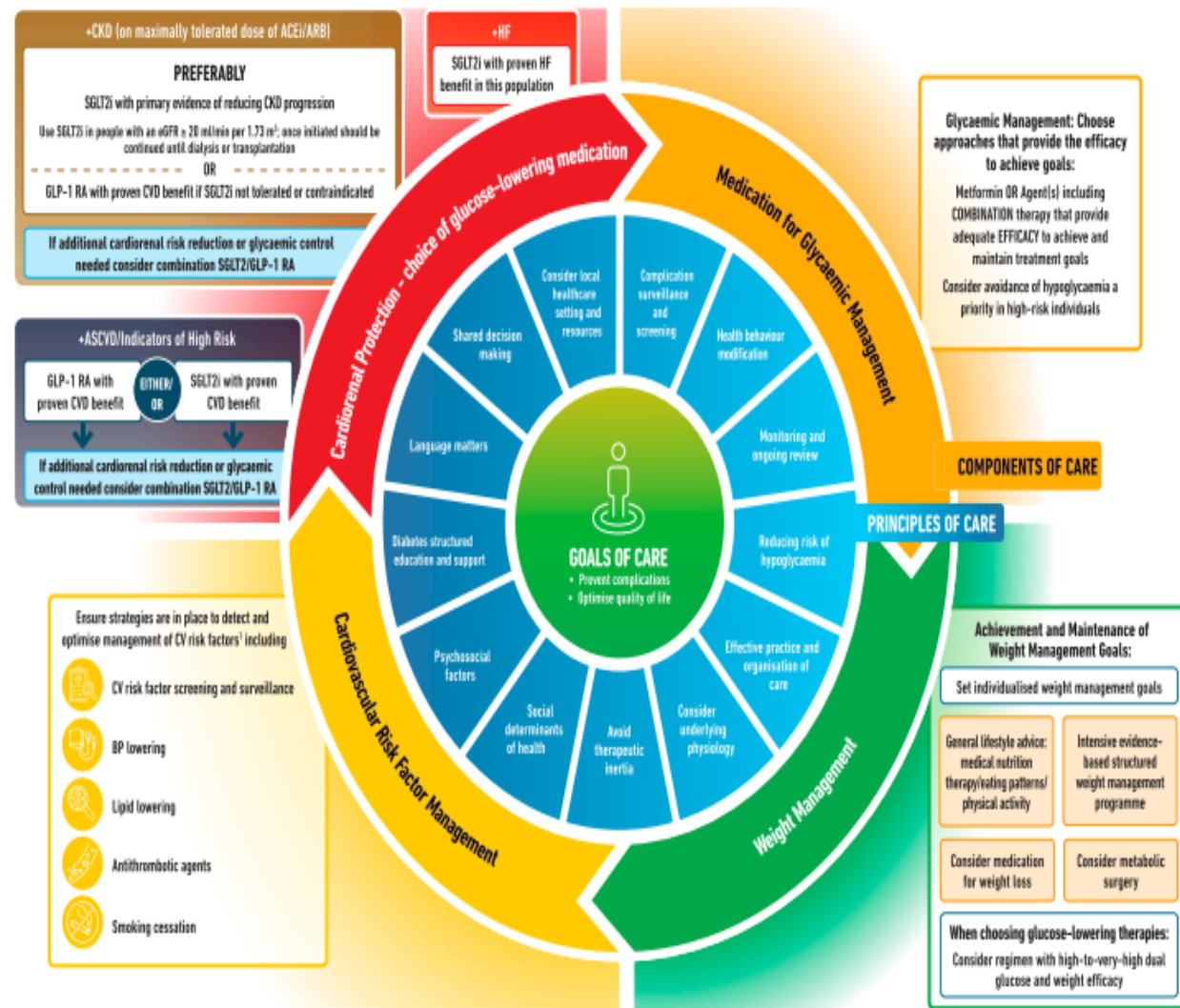


	Glucose/insulin	Blood pressure	A1C	Lipids	Physical function	Depression	Quality of life
SITTING/BREAKING UP PROLONGED SITTING	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑
STEPPING	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑
SWEATING (MODERATE-TO-VIGOROUS ACTIVITY)	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑
STRENGTHENING	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑
ADEQUATE SLEEP DURATION	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑
GOOD SLEEP QUALITY	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑
CHRONOTYPIC/CONSISTENT TIMING	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑

IMPACT OF PHYSICAL BEHAVIORS ON CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH IN PEOPLE WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES

↑ Higher levels/improvement (physical function, quality of life); ↓ Lower levels/improvement (glucose/insulin, blood pressure, A1C, lipids, depression); ○ no data available; ↑ Green arrows = strong evidence; ↑ Yellow arrows = medium-strength evidence; ↑ Red arrows = limited evidence.

HOLISTIC PERSON-CENTRED APPROACH TO T2DM MANAGEMENT



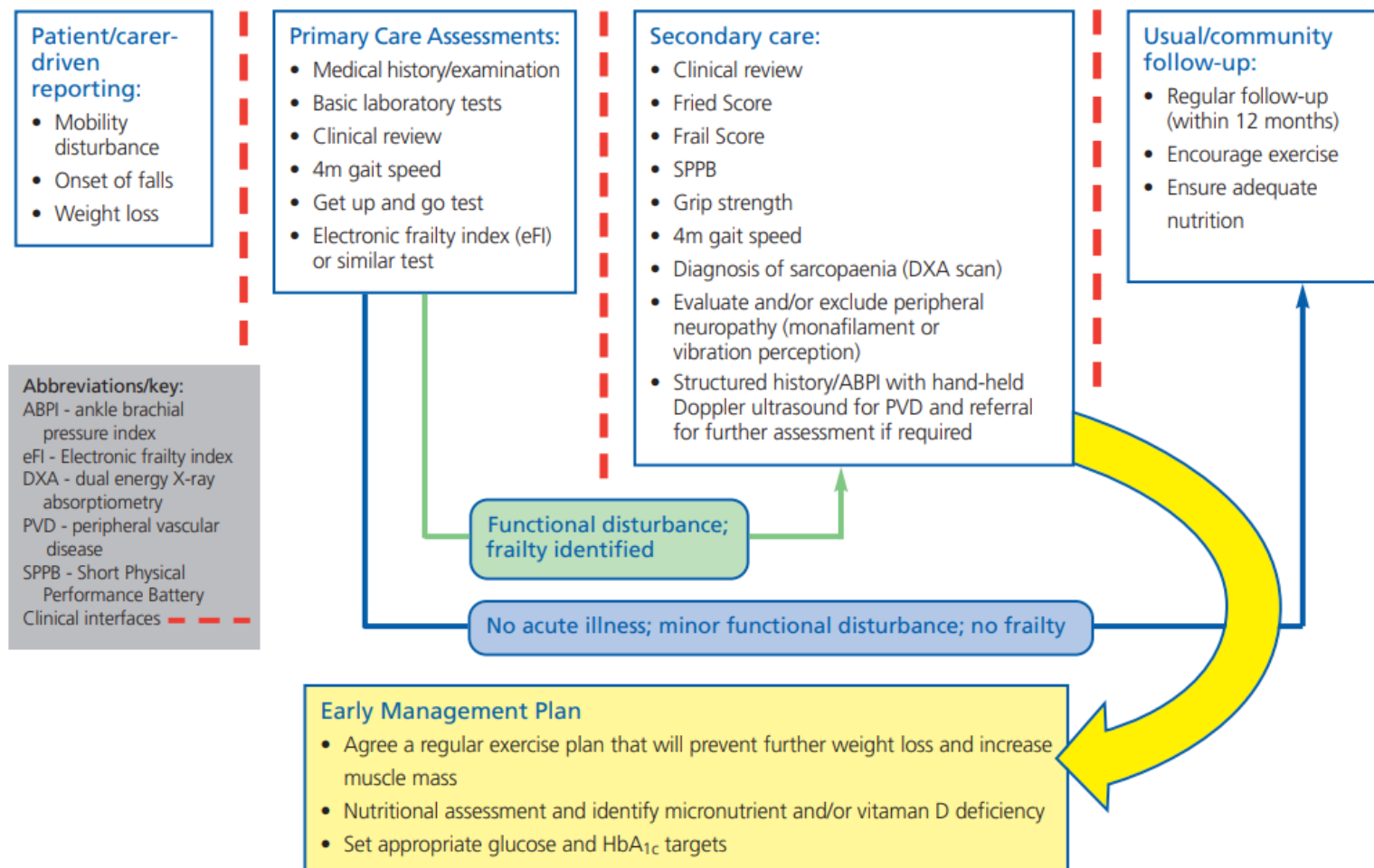
- Davies MJ, Aroda VR, Collins BS, Gabbay RA, Green J, Maruthur NM, Rosas SE, Del Prato S, Mathieu C, Mingrone G, Rossing P, Tankova T, Tsapas A, Buse JB *Diabetes Care* 2022; <https://doi.org/10.2337/dci22-0034>. *Diabetologia* 2022; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00125-022-05787-2>.

Managing frailty and associated comorbidities in older adults with diabetes: Position Statement on behalf of the Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD)

ALAN SINCLAIR,¹ ALISON GALLAGHER²

POSITION STATEMENT

Figure 1: ABCD Frailty Assessment Pathway in Diabetes (adapted from references 12 and 13)



POSITION STATEMENT

Table 1 Summary of glucose-lowering therapies in managing frail older adults with diabetes. Each class of agent can be used in frail people with diabetes but cautions are present. Numerous factors must be taken into account in prescribing a safe but effective glucose-lowering agent.

	HbA_{1c} reduction	Advantages	Disadvantages	Vignette in frail population
Metformin	1% (11 mmol/mol)	Low hypoglycaemia risk Low cost Well tolerated generally	Many contraindications in population with high comorbidity burden. May cause weight loss, GI upset in frail patients	Can be used until eGFR <30 mL/min Use with caution if previous episode of acute kidney injury Extended release formulation has lower complexity and fewer GI side effects Assess and replace vitamin B12
Sulfonylureas	1% (11 mmol/mol)	Low cost Established glucose-lowering medication Can be used in moderate to severe renal impairment	High risk of hypoglycaemia Avoid glibenclamide (glyburide)	Avoid in patients with inconsistent eating pattern such as in advanced dementia and malignancy High risk of hypoglycaemia during acute illness or weight loss Consider discontinuing if already receiving substantial amount of insulin (approximately >40 units/day) Have a high threshold for use with insulin in frail older adults
Meglitinides	0.4–0.9% (4.4–9.9 mmol/mol)	Shorter duration of action compared with sulfonylurea	Higher cost than sulfonylurea Increased regimen complexity due to multiple daily doses with meals	Can be withheld if patient refuses to eat any particular meal

TZDs, Pioglitazone	1% (11 mmol/mol)	Low hypoglycaemia risk Low cost Once a day dosing Can be used in moderate to severe renal impairment	Many contraindications in population with high co-morbidity burden such as CHF, leg oedema, anaemia, fractures Use with caution in combination with insulin	Good efficacy in older patients with high insulin resistance
DPP-4 inhibitors	0.5–0.8% (6–9 mmol/mol)	Low hypoglycaemia risk Once a day oral medication Well tolerated Can be used in renal impairment but dose adjustment required (except linagliptin)	Medium/high cost HbA _{1c} reduction modest compared with other agents Potential risk of heart failure in at-risk individuals	Can be combined with basal insulin for a low complexity regimen
SGLT-2 inhibitors	0.8–1.0% (9–11 mmol/mol)	Low hypoglycaemia risk Reasonable efficacy Risk of other adverse effects moderate Diuretic, blood pressure-lowering effect	High cost Limited experience in older population but evidence increasing Low risk of diabetic ketoacidosis which may be euglycaemic and unrecognised	In frail adults, watch for increased urinary frequency, incontinence, lower BP, genital infections, dehydration; do not initiate if eGFR is <60 mL/min; dose reduction required in the presence of renal impairment Withhold SGLT-2 inhibitors at times of acute illness or major surgery
GLP-1 receptor agonists	0.8–1.0% (9–11 mmol/mol)	Low hypoglycaemia risk Once a day and once a week formulation New formulations available in combination with basal insulin	High cost Injectable GI side effects	Monitor for anorexia, weight loss; do not use in severe renal impairment (eGFR <30 mL/min); dose reduction needed in moderate impairment (except for liraglutide and dulaglutide) Once-weekly formulations may be helpful if carer support is necessary to deliver injectable therapy
Insulin	>1% (>11 mmol/mol)	No ceiling effect Many different types including high concentrated forms have variable serum half-life and can be used to target hyperglycaemia at different times of the day; can be used in renal impairment	High risk of hypoglycaemia Need for matching carbohydrate content in patients with variable appetite when using prandial insulin Carer education and training needed if involved in administration Blood glucose testing necessary adding to cost	Use of basal insulin with other agents to lower post-prandial glucose can lower complexity of management and reduce the risk of hypoglycaemia

Glycaemic Targets

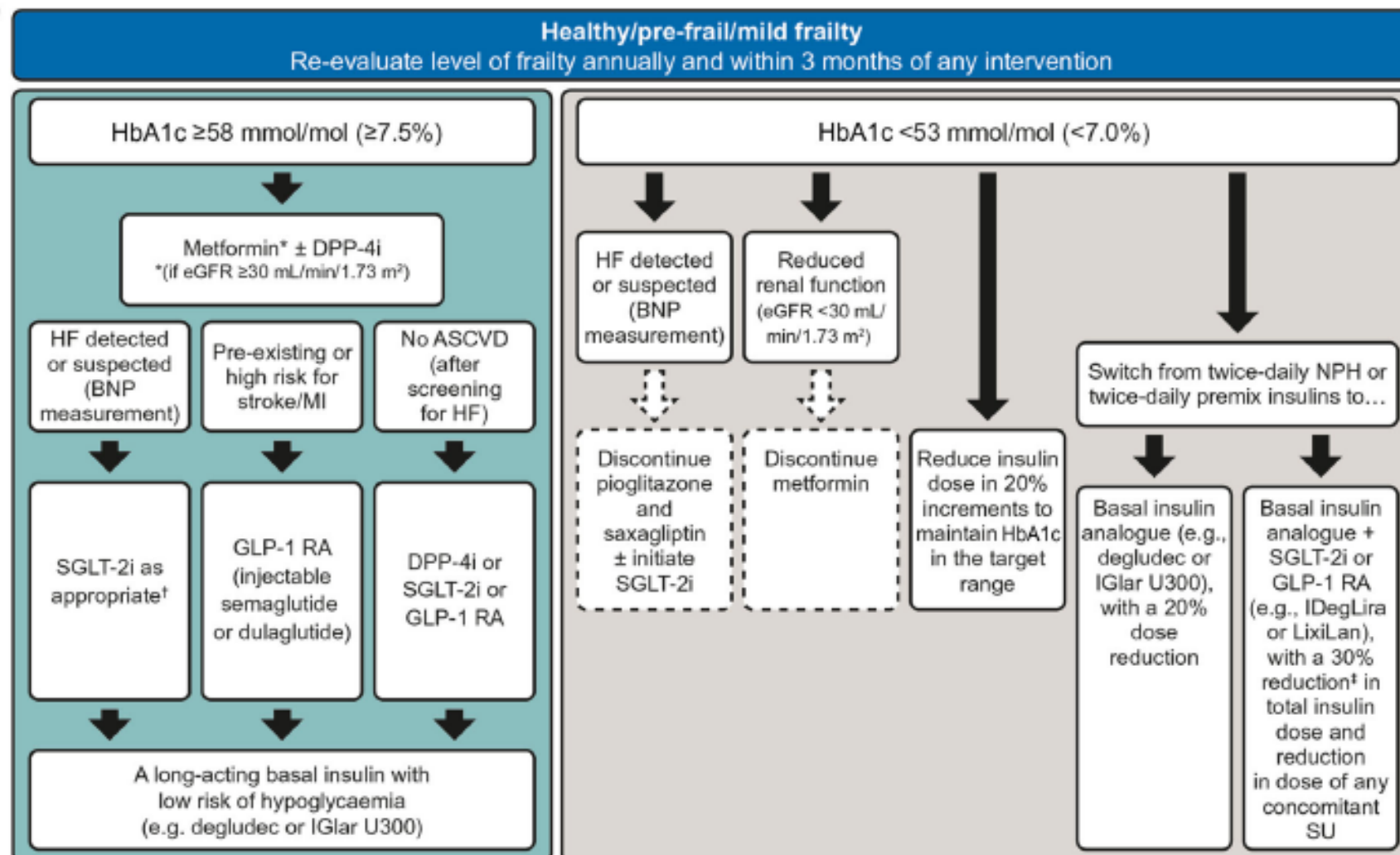
- Lack of evidence for glycaemic targets in older, frail adults
- Consider risk of hypoglycaemia
- HbA1C <53mmol/mol likely to indicate over-treatment in frail older people
- Glycaemic targets should be individualised, taking into account functional status and co-morbidities
- ABCD advise target range - 53-64mmol/mol in mild/moderate frailty
59-69 mmol/mol in severe frailty
- Caution in interpretation of HbA1C in presence of anaemia

Blood Pressure Targets

- Target BP for adults < 80 years <140/90 mmHg (NICE)
- Target BP for adults >80 years <150/90 mmHg (NICE)
- <150/90mmHg target in frail, dependent, older adults with diabetes (ABCD)
- Lying and standing BP where possible
- 'Start low and go slow'
- First line treatment in older adults ACEI
- Monitor renal function and electrolytes

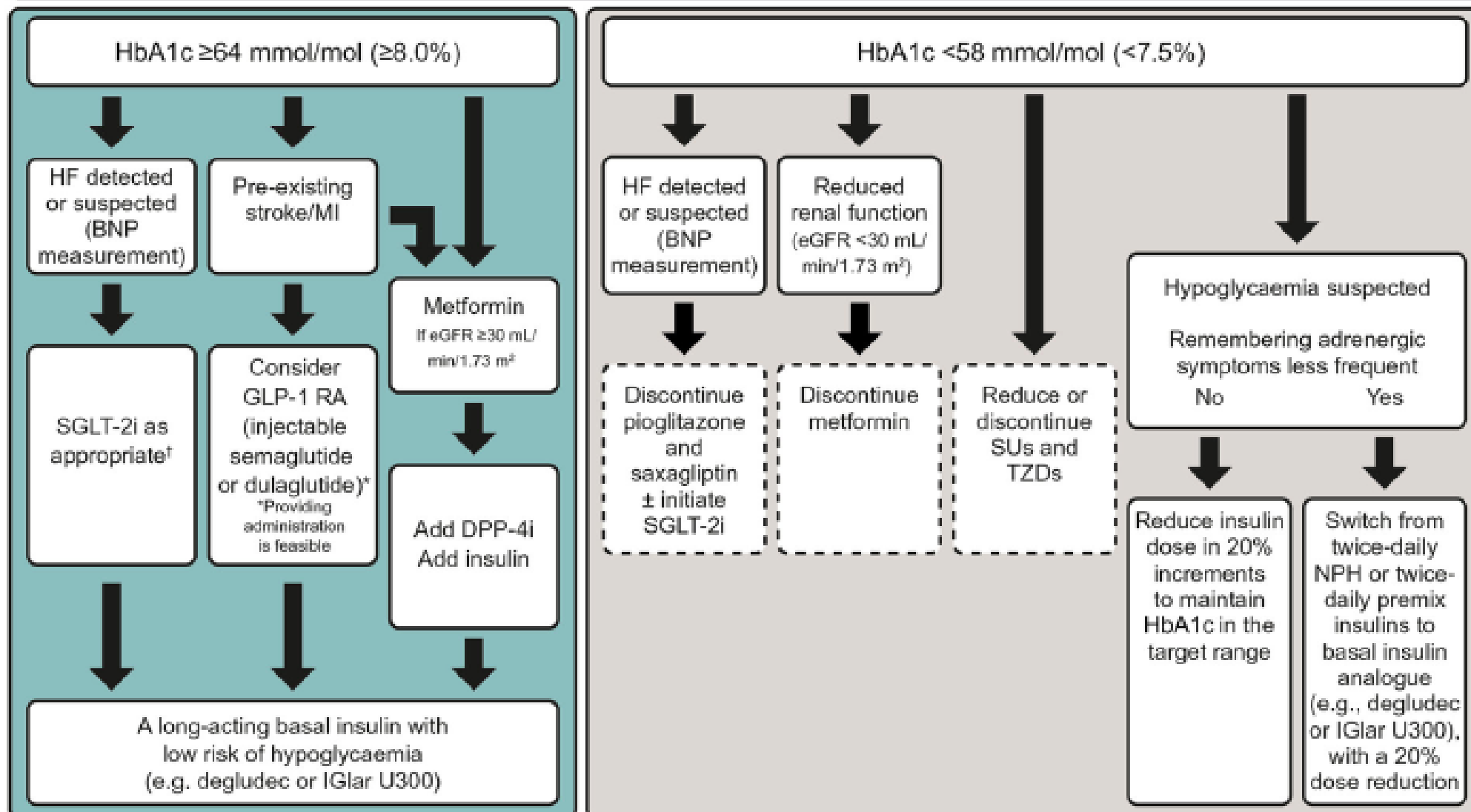
Diabetes and Frailty: An Expert Consensus Statement on the Management of Older Adults with Type 2 Diabetes

W. David Strain · Su Down · Pam Brown · Amar Puttanna · Alan Sinclair



Moderately frail

Re-evaluate level of frailty annually and within 3 months of any intervention



Severely frail

Re-evaluate level of frailty annually and within 3 months of any intervention

HbA1c ≥ 69 mmol/mol ($\geq 8.5\%$)

HF detected
or suspected
(BNP
measurement)

No HF

Commence or
continue
SGLT-2i as
appropriate†
Mitigate risk of
dehydration/infection

Add DPP-4i
Saxagliptin may
increase risk of HF

A long-acting basal insulin with
low risk of hypoglycaemia
(e.g. degludec or IGlax U300)

When becomes severely frail at any HbA1c

Consider
stopping
metformin
and
GLP-1 RA*
(substitute
with DPP-4i)
*Risks of reduced
appetite and
weight loss

Discontinue
TZDs*
(substitute
with DPP-4i)
*HF and fracture
risk

Discontinue
SUs*
*Risk of
hypoglycaemia

HbA1c < 58 mmol/mol ($< 7.5\%$)

Consider
discontinuation of
SGLT-2is
If no evidence of HF, and
with active screening for
HF after stopping, ask
patient to report if weight
climbs > 2 kg in 24 hours
or 5 kg in a week

Switch from twice-
daily NPH or
twice-daily premix
insulins to DPP-4i
 \pm basal insulin
analogue (e.g.,
degludec or IGlax
U300), with a 20%
dose reduction

Reduce insulin dose
in 20% increments
to maintain HbA1c in
the target range



Glycaemic targets should not be the only priority

Greater focus on:

- Risk of hypoglycaemia
- Falls
- Quality of life

Align inpatient glycaemic targets with frailty category

e.g. Rockwood Clinical Frailty Scale







Western Health
and Social Care Trust

Guideline for the Review of Diabetes Medicines for Inpatients with Type 2 Diabetes and Frailty

March 2023

- Marianne.Mckenna@westerntrust.hscni.net
- Fionnuala.Mccullagh@westerntrust.hscni.net

Table 1: Review of diabetes medicines for inpatients with Type 2 diabetes and frailty, according to Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS)

Clinical Frailty Scale LINK	Suggested glycaemic goals Targets should be individualised		Recommended actions for Type 2 diabetes medicines		Blood pressure target (mmHg)	Lipids	
	HbA1c (mmol/mol)	CBG (mmol/L)	<i>Examples of groups of medicines: sulphonylureas – gliclazide; SGLT2-inhibitors – dapagliflozin; DPP-4 inhibitors – linagliptin; GLP1RAs: liraglutide</i>				
In addition to frailty, also consider history of hypoglycaemia, falls, and cognitive decline including delirium, muscle loss (sarcopenia), overall treatment burden and impact on QoL.							
1-4 fit older adults	Strictly AVOID blood glucose < 4 and >15 mmol/L	≤58 Target ≤53 Prompt for de-escalation	6-10 Target 6-12 Acceptable	As per NICE guidelines			
5 mild frailty 		≤64 Target <70 CKD ≤58 Prompt for de-escalation	7.8-10 Target 6-12 Acceptable	General Review timing of administration of diabetes medicines in relation to timing of meals and snacks Measure HbA1c on admission if no value available for within last 6 months Avoid initiating agents that may cause hypoglycaemia (e.g. sulfonylureas) Check whether the agent is contraindicated in impaired renal function e.g. metformin: eGFR < 30ml/min - contraindicated; eGFR 30-44ml/min, maximum daily dose 1000mg Metformin First-line agent; benefits seen even at low dose and/or once daily Consider slow release preparation if nausea, diarrhoea or appetite suppression experienced Sulfonylureas and short-acting insulins Evaluate long-acting sulfonylureas and short-acting insulin therapy that may cause hypoglycaemia Reduce or discontinue sulfonylureas if HbA1c below de-escalation threshold SGLT2-inhibitors Clarify indication/s. May provide additional benefit in heart failure and CKD. Care in hypovolaemia, hypotension, infection/candidiasis – consider holding, especially for surgery; check ketones if acutely unwell		150/90 for hypertension Reduce or stop anti-hypertensives as appropriate to avoid hypotension (NB consider if for indications other than hypertension e.g. HF)	Consider whether benefits will be realised in remaining time-span wrt frailty. Benefits from trials were generally found over 5 years. Resources include Polypharmacy Guidance p62 and Gloucestershire Statin Guideline p6
6 moderate frailty 							
7 severe frailty 		<70 Target ≤64 Prompt for de-escalation	7.5-12 Target 6-12 Acceptable	As for CFS 5 and 6 plus: For short-acting insulins, once acute illness resolved: T2DM only – discuss with MDT consider switch to alternative insulin or stopping insulin if only on a small dose Consider a DPP-4 inhibitors if new or alternative therapy needed Avoid SGLT2-inhibitors for T2DM – NB. consider whether using/needed for other indication/s Use of SGLT2-inhibitors (for T2DM) and GLP1RAs limited			
8 very severe frailty 		No measurement of HbA1c Avoid hypoglycaemia		As for CFS 7 but also: Withdraw sulfonylureas Consider End of Life diabetes care		Avoid hypotension	
9	Terminally ill. Consult End of Life specialists and guidance, including Diabetes at EOL Guidelines - All Documents (n-i.nhs.uk)						
Recommendations are for Type 2 diabetes. In Type 1 diabetes, always maintain background insulin. Only stop in End of Life care and progressing to active dying.							

De-escalation of treatment and targets

- Loosening of blood glucose control targets and other measures to reduce burden of diabetes treatment and monitoring
- De-prescribing
- Part of routine diabetes care
- Individualised
- Shared decisions with patient, carers, family

When to consider de-escalation, deprescribing?

- HbA1C <53 mmol/mol
- Previous severe hypoglycaemia
- Multiple co-morbidities
- Short life expectancy
- Low functional status
- Recurrent falls

Adverse effects of medications

- Burdensome over-monitoring
- Patient goals, preference

Plan

- Identify the problems
- Determine patients goals for diabetes care
- Identify if the patient is suitable for deintensification of treatment
- Discuss de-prescribing
 - Risks of current treatment, treatment targets
 - Present options
 - Shared decision making

Plan

- Stopping or reduced dose of medication
- Start with drug most likely to cause harm or side-effects
- Consider switching to medication with lower risk or harm
- Consider simplification of insulin regimen(if using)
- Step-wise approach
- Check HbA1C after a few months

Case

- ▶ 75 year old man
- ▶ Type 2 diabetes, diagnosed 26 years ago
- ▶ Widowed, lives alone, non-driver
- ▶ Mobile short distances, lives independently (CFS~4) mild frailty
- ▶ PMH IHD (STEMI, CABG), impaired LV function, CVA, carotid endarterectomy, PVD
- ▶ Medications- metformin 500mg bd, gliclazide 40mg bd, atorvastatin 40mg daily, Entresto, nebivolol , clopidogrel , furosemide 20mg daily, spironolactone 12.5 mg daily, dapagliflozin 10mg daily
- ▶ CBGs 5-6 mmol/L, no hypo symptoms
- ▶ HbA1C 45, eGFR 52, ACR 5, BP 104/66 mmHg 90kg

Case study: Margaret



- Age: 88
- Admitted via ED
- Fall – c/o pain L shoulder; unsure if hit head
- AKI
- (+ vulvo-vaginal candidiasis)
- Fourth admission in 12 months, (falls, UTI)
- Med Hx: T2DM, HTN, recurrent UTIs, slow AF, CKD 3
- POC x 2. CFS 5-6 lives with husband who has dementia.

Other clinical parameters

- Baseline SrCr: 81 micromol/L
- **Current SrCr: 139** micromol/L
- Baseline eGFR: 55-59 mL/min
- K: 3.6 mmol/L
- Na: 138 mmol/L
- Urea: 10.1 mmol/L
- Weight: 55kg
- **BG: 5-6** mmol/L
- **HbA1c: 36** mmol/mol
- Last 24 hours **SBP: 90-100** mmHg
- Last 24 hours DBP: 54-60 mmHg

Pre-admission medicines

- Adcal D3 caplets – two tabs twice daily
- Apixaban 2.5mg BD
- Amlodipine 5mg daily
- Dapagliflozin 10mg daily
- Metformin 1g twice daily breakfast and evening meal

- Allergies and intolerances: beta-blockers (fatigue) and Ace-Inhibitors (cough)

Medicines for discharge

- Stop amlodipine
- Complete course clotrimazole cream
- Prn paracetamol
- Restart metformin ? Dose?
- Restart Dapagliflozin?

Follow-up

- Repeat HbA1c in 3-6 months
- Check BP 1-2 weeks
- Communicate target/s

Case Study 2 :Derek

Background

- 75 year old male BIBA to ED 09.03.23 referred by GP with unstable blood glucose, urinary retention and safeguarding concerns

Past Medical History

- T2DM on Novomix 30 10 units daily plus Metformin 1g BD
- (incorrectly clerked as T1DM)
- Depression
- Osteoarthritis RH
- Renal Stones

Social History

- Lives alone in an isolated rural bungalow, no POC, sisters visit 4-5 times daily providing ADLs
- Reduced mobility since December 22
- Declining social services input

Relevant Drug History

- Metformin 1g BD Tamsulosin, Diazepam 6mg BD, Duloxetine , Pyridoxine, Salbutamol MDI, Aspirin, Simvastatin, Irbesartan, Novomix 30 10 units Mane, lansoprazole, Temazepam, Clomipramine

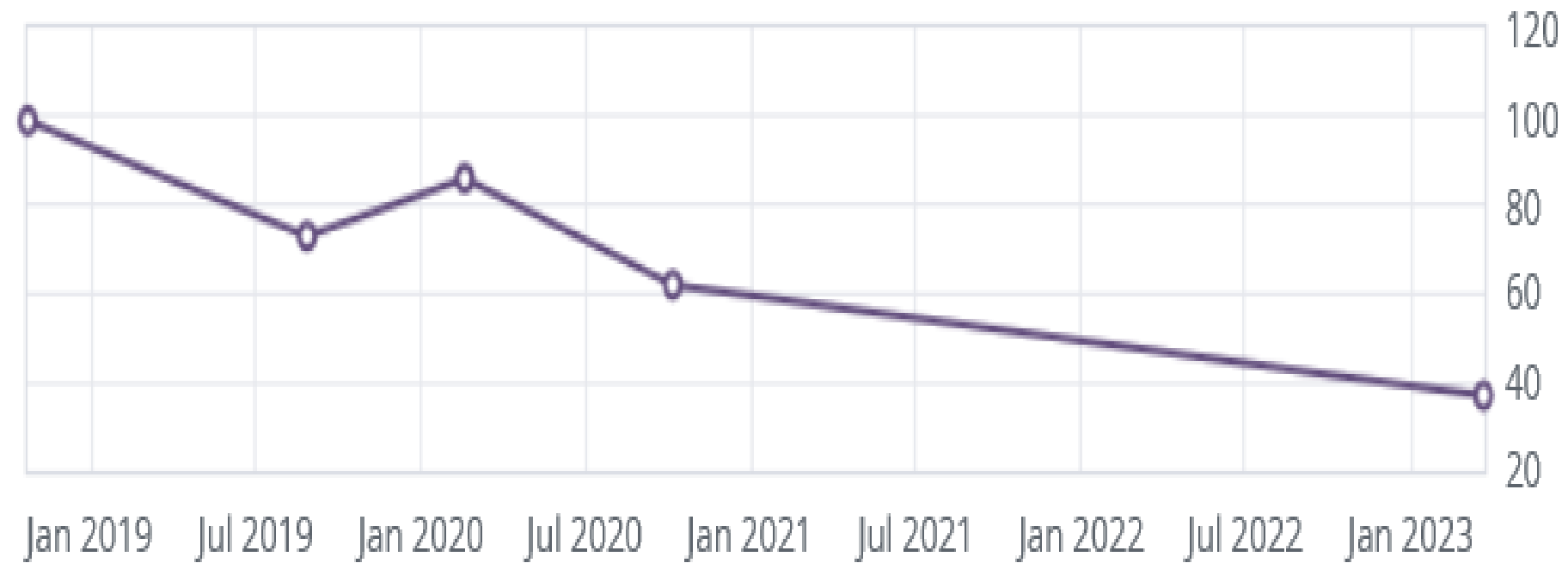
On Review

- Off functional baseline
- RCFS (1-9) = 7 (severe frailty, dependent on personal care, stable seems stable and not at risk of dying within ~6 months)
- Evidence of urinary retention- catheterised
- Low folate, B12, vitamin D, Hb 96, hba1c 37.

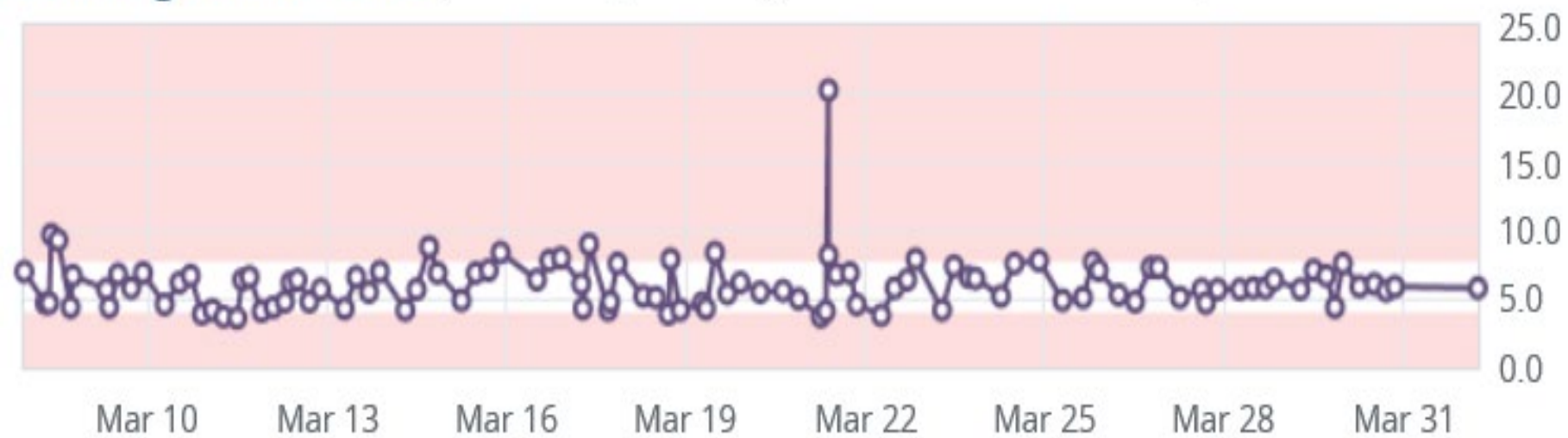
Outcome

- Spent 3 weeks in hospital gradually mobilising
- Initial hypoglycaemia followed by normal blood glucose levels once all diabetes agents stopped
- CTMA 31.03.23 discharged on nil diabetes meds.
- MDT review 26.04.23

HbA1c levl - IFCC standardised (mmol/mol) [§](#) Showing from 22-Oct-2018 to 22-Mar-2023



Blood glucose level (mmol/L) Showing from 07-Mar-2023 to 01-Apr-2023



Any thoughts?

- Risks going forward?
- How to review?
- Any other suggestions re care or Rx?

Summary

Frailty is common in older people with diabetes

Identification of frailty is important in management in older people with diabetes

Older, frail adults with diabetes are less likely to benefit from intensive diabetes treatment

Hypoglycaemia is a particular risk for older frail adults

Individualise care and treatment targets

Emphasis on patient safety



Thank you !