

Inappropriate prescribing: Mapping the characteristics of evaluation tools

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Background: An appropriate prescription should “maximise efficacy and safety, minimise cost, and respect patient’s preferences” [1]. Many different tools evaluating the appropriateness of prescriptions have been developed and published, but a comprehensive overview is missing.

Objectives: To identify tools to evaluate or improve inappropriate prescribing in adults by an extensive literature search and to summarise their characteristics.

Conclusions: This overview reveals that none of these tools covers all the dimensions of appropriate prescribing. Mapping the characteristics emphasizes strengths, limitations and usability, and provides a valuable overview.

Bibliographic references: [1] Barber N. Towards a philosophy of clinical pharmacy. Pharm J 1996;257:289-91