



# Geriatric Palliative Care

**Susan Elizabeth Wang MD, FAAHPM, HMDC**

SCAL Chief, Dept of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

SCAL Medical Director, Life Care Planning & Serious Illness Care

National Lead, Palliative Care, Kaiser Permanente

# DISCLOSURES

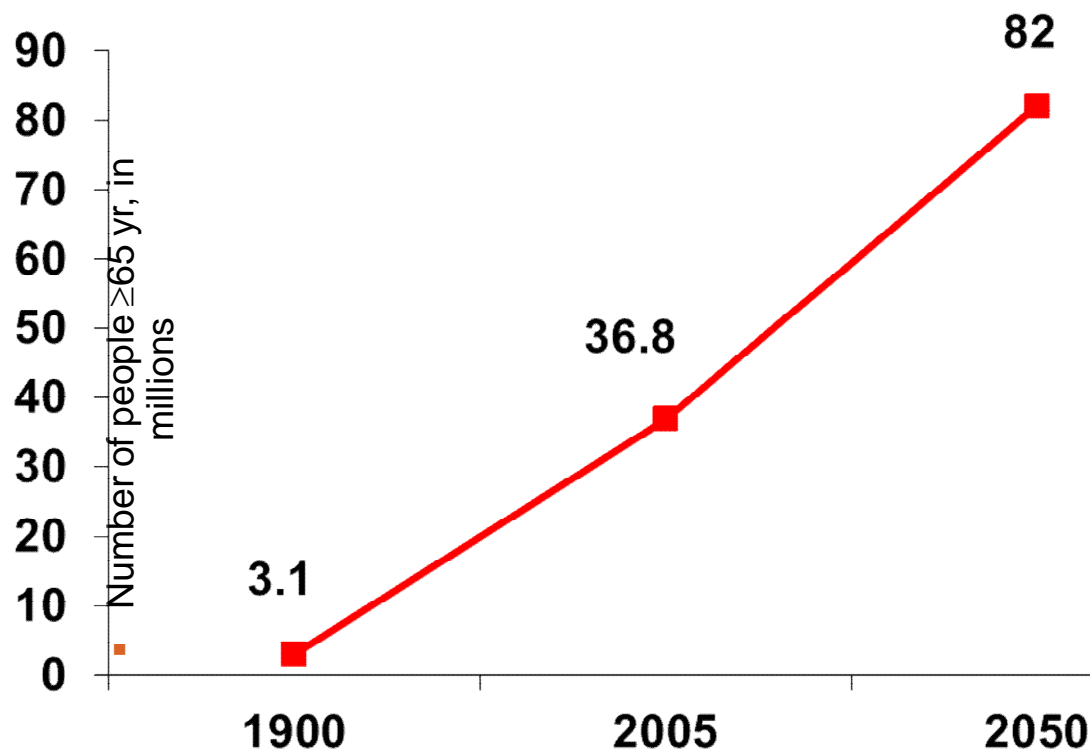
**I do not have anything to disclose.**

# Objective

- Illustrate the synergies across geriatric and palliative medicine
- Learn the 5 M's of geriatric medicine
- Apply geriatric principles to a palliative case

# AGING OF THE US POPULATION

The minority older adult population in the US 20.7% in 2012 to 39.1% in 2050.

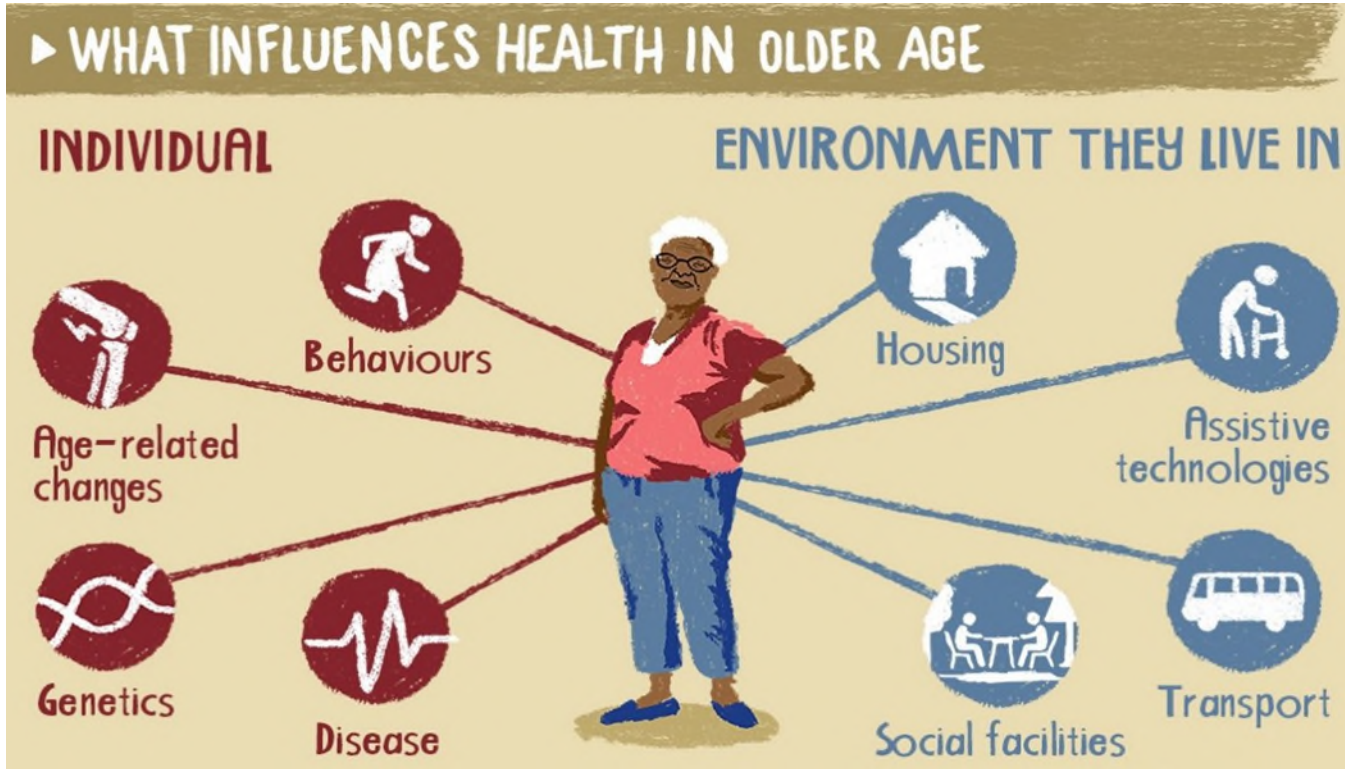


Aged 50–64 (young–old)  
65–79 (middle–old)  
80 and older (old–old) (increase by 300%)

1.5-2 million older LGBT Americans and by 2030  
2-6 million



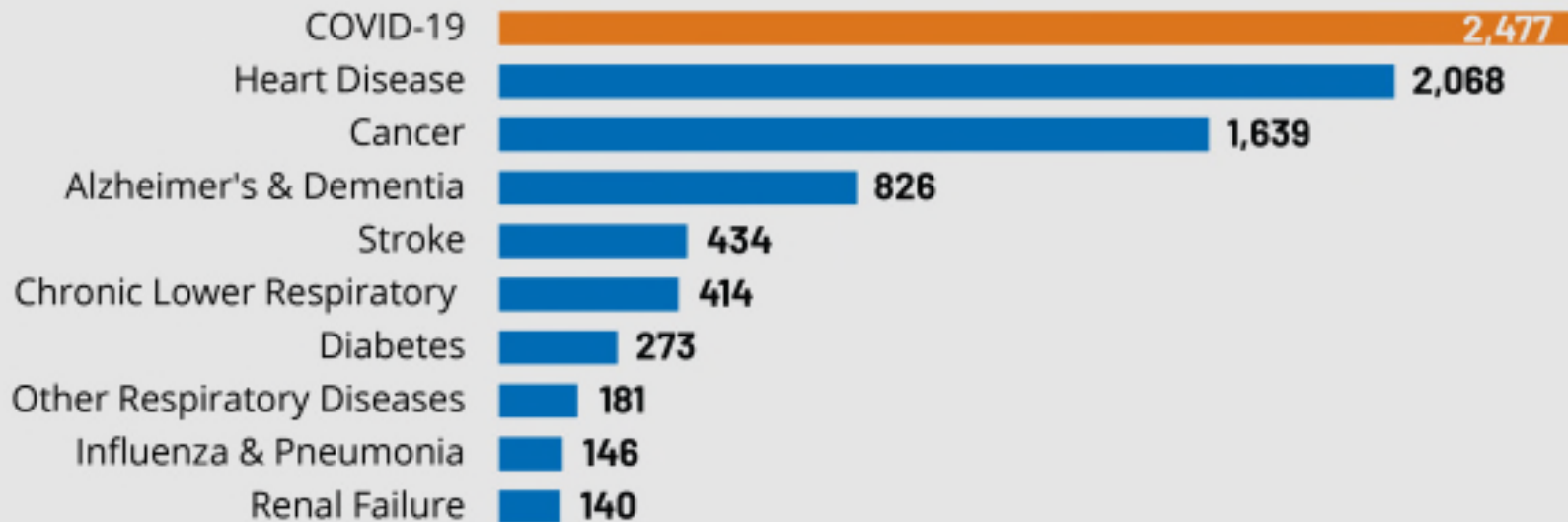
# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



# Heterogeneity

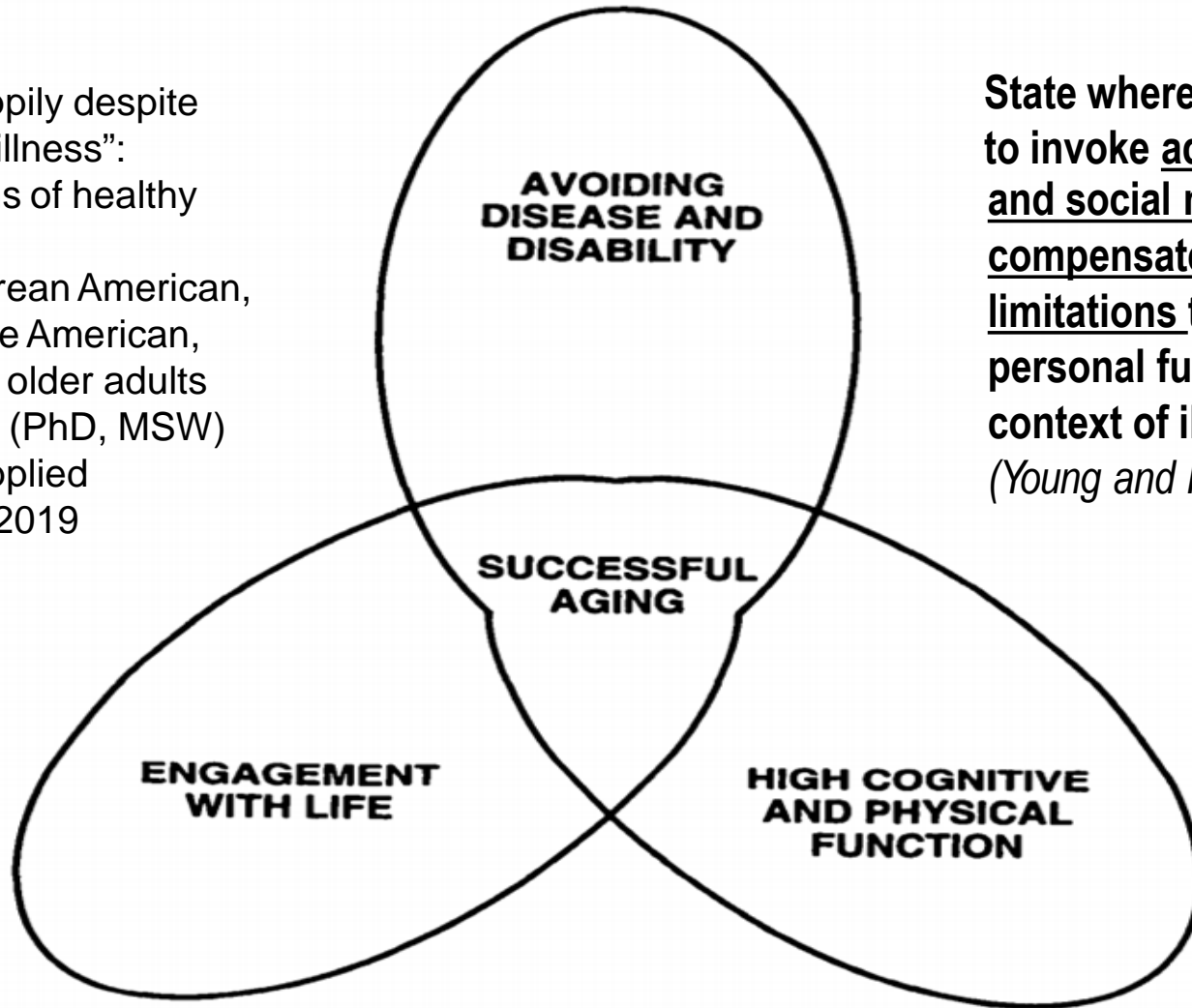
# COVID-19 is the Number One Cause of Death in the U.S. in Early 2021

Average Daily Deaths in the United States from COVID-19 (February 2021) and Other Leading Causes (2020)



# MODEL FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING

“Living happily despite having an illness”:  
Perceptions of healthy aging among Korean American, Vietnamese American, and Latino older adults  
H. Nguyen (PhD, MSW)  
Nursing Applied Research 2019



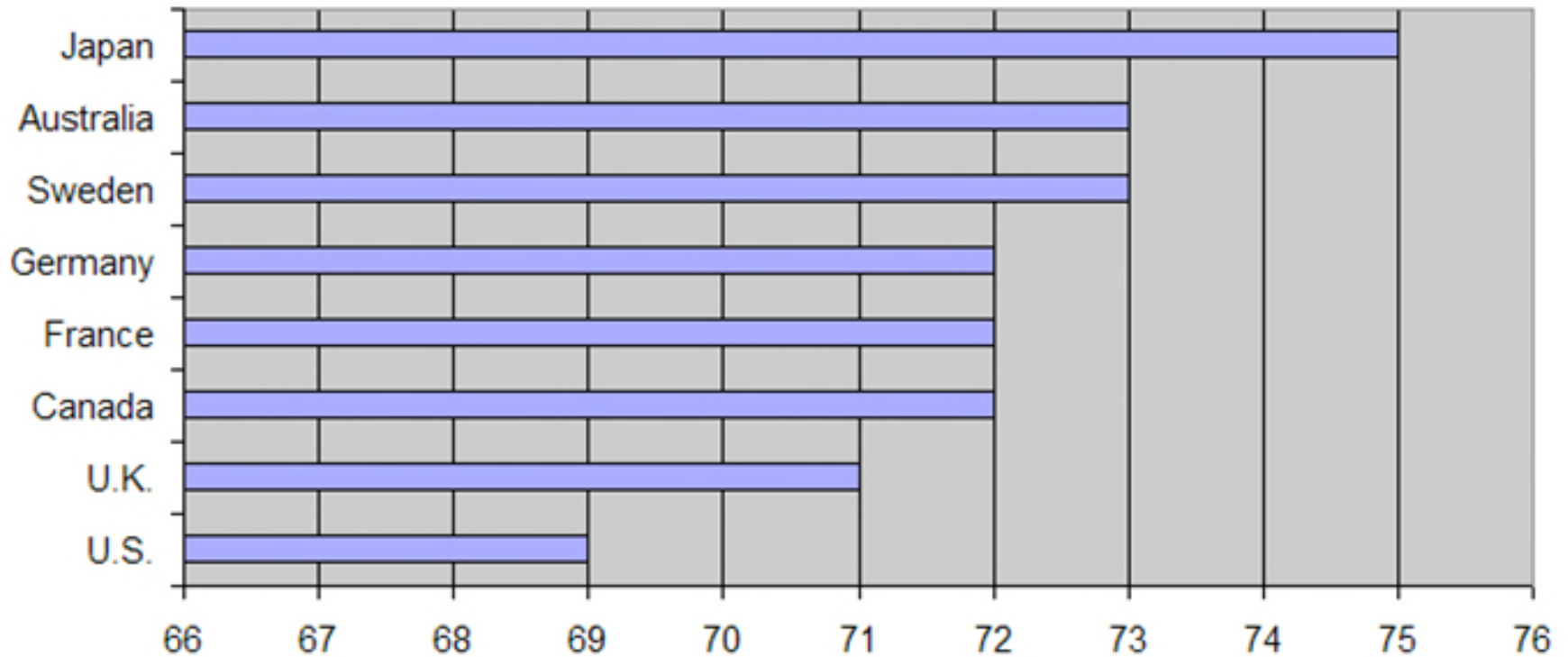
State wherein an individual is able to invoke adaptive psychological and social mechanisms to compensate for physiological limitations to achieve a sense of personal fulfillment, even in the context of illness and disability.  
*(Young and Phelan 2009)*

65-74: 89% report no disability

85+: 40% report no disability

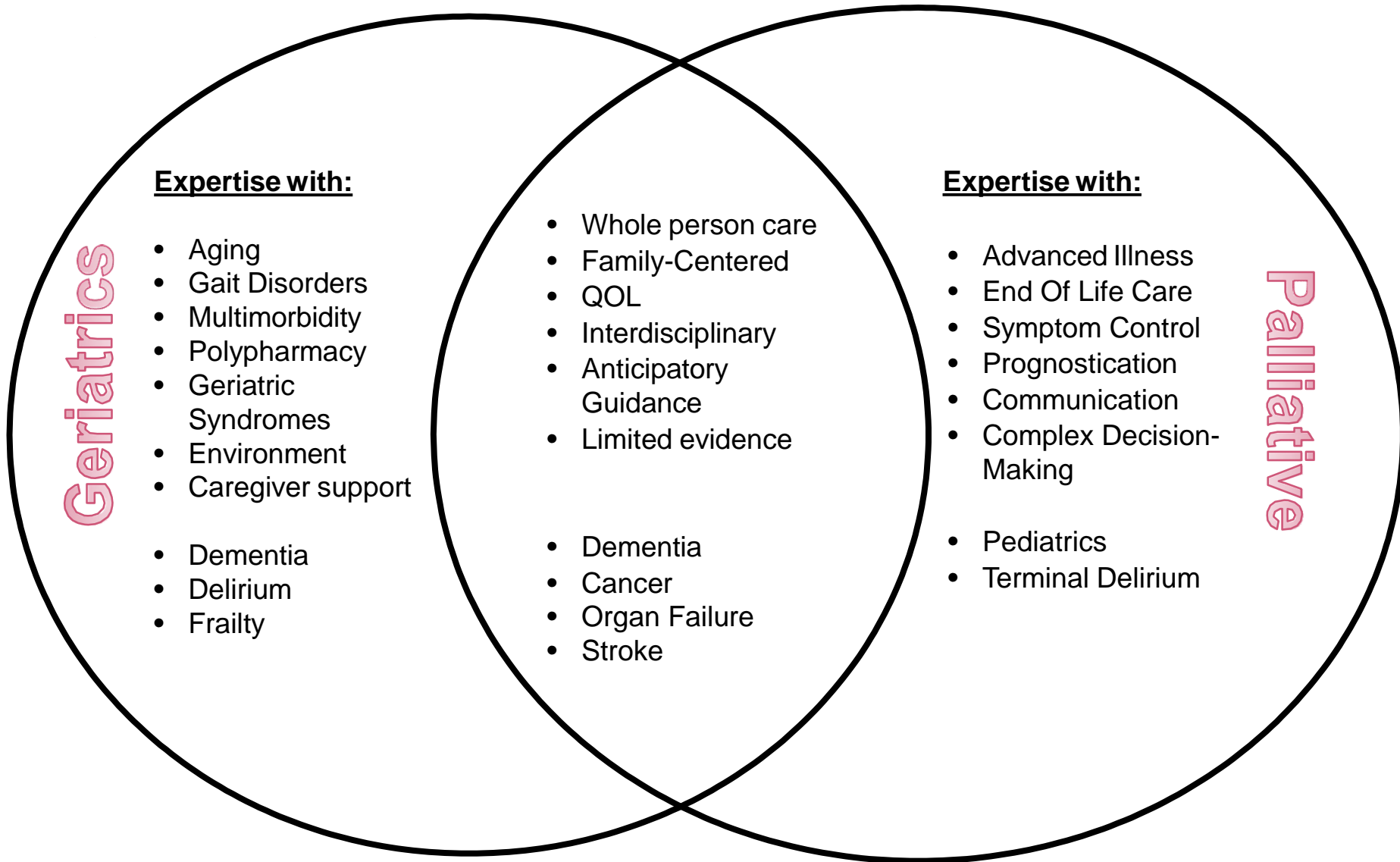
# MORBIDITY COMPRESSION

2003 Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth (Years)





# COMPETENCIES ACROSS THE GERIPAL SPECTRUM



# 4 M's AGE-FRIENDLY HEALTH SYSTEM + 1 M

## **MIND** (Dementia/Delirium)

Diagnosis, Management, Team-based coordination

## **MOBILITY**

Function, Independence, Fall-Risk, Prevention

## **MEDICATIONS**

Polypharmacy, Deprescribing


## **MULTIMORBIDITY**

Management of heterogeneous older adults with multiple medical problems incorporating preferences, evidence-based medicine, prognosis, feasibility, and optimization (both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic) to individualize care plans

## **MATTERS MOST**

Values, Priorities, Treatment Goals





# Dementia: Definition DSM IV

**MIND**

## Clinical definition: Three criteria are required for a diagnosis

1. A short-term memory deficit that can be demonstrated objectively on cognitive testing
2. At least one other cognitive impairment such as:

---

**Aphasia** – difficulty finding the right words or using the wrong words

---

**Executive function impairment** – difficulty with planning, judgment, mental flexibility, abstraction, problem-solving, etc.

---

**Agnosia** – impaired recognition of people or objects

---

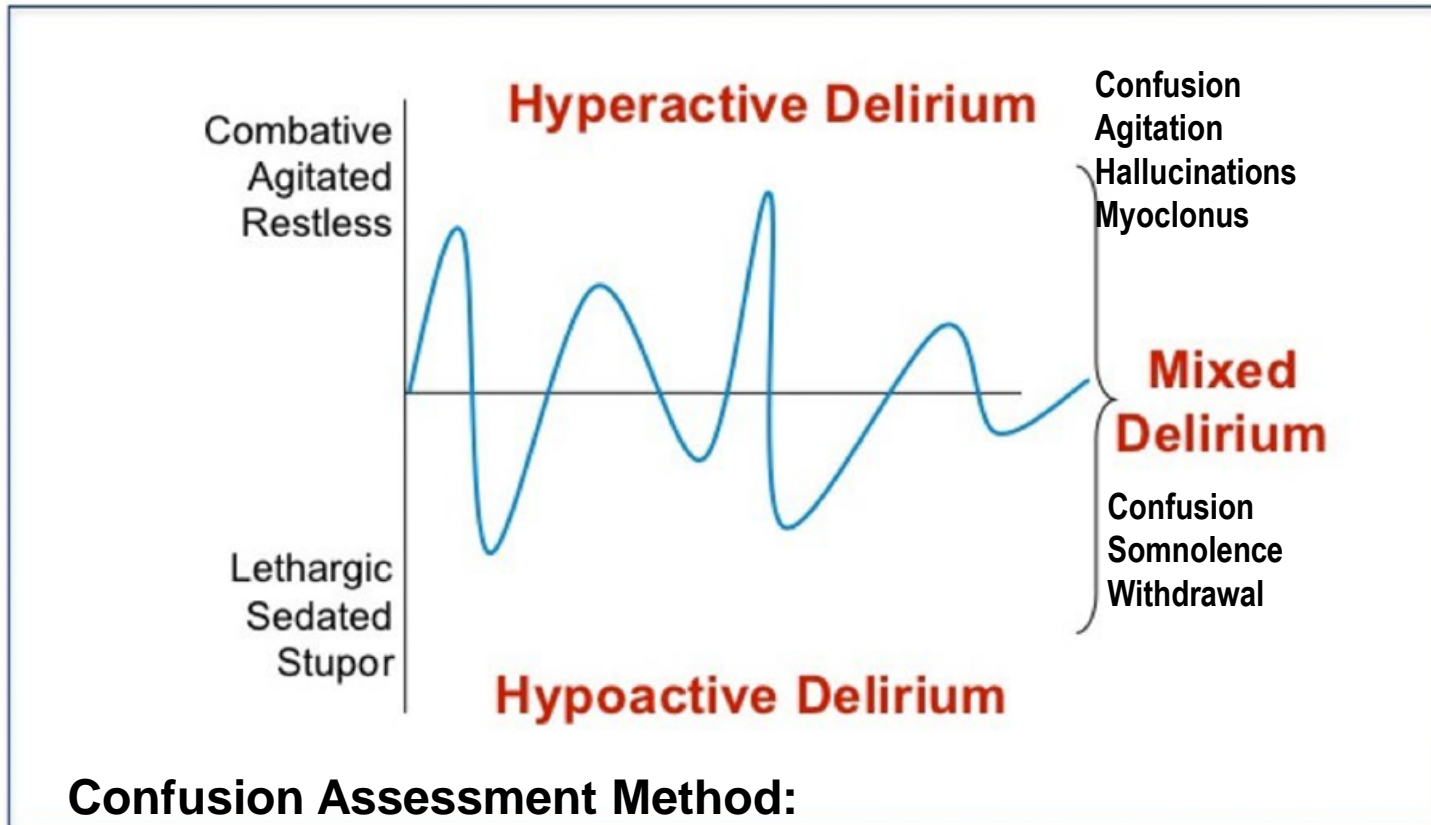
**Apraxia** – forgetting how to do simple tasks that were well-learned previously (hobbies; work-related tasks; or activities of daily living, such as cooking, driving a car, using a phone, etc.)

---

3. Together, these cognitive deficits must result in impairment in performance of daily activities, including significant impairment in social or occupational functioning, and must show a progressive decline from previous functioning.

# Delirium Subtypes

MIND



## Confusion Assessment Method:

Acute onset and fluctuating course

Inattention **D**isorganized thinking

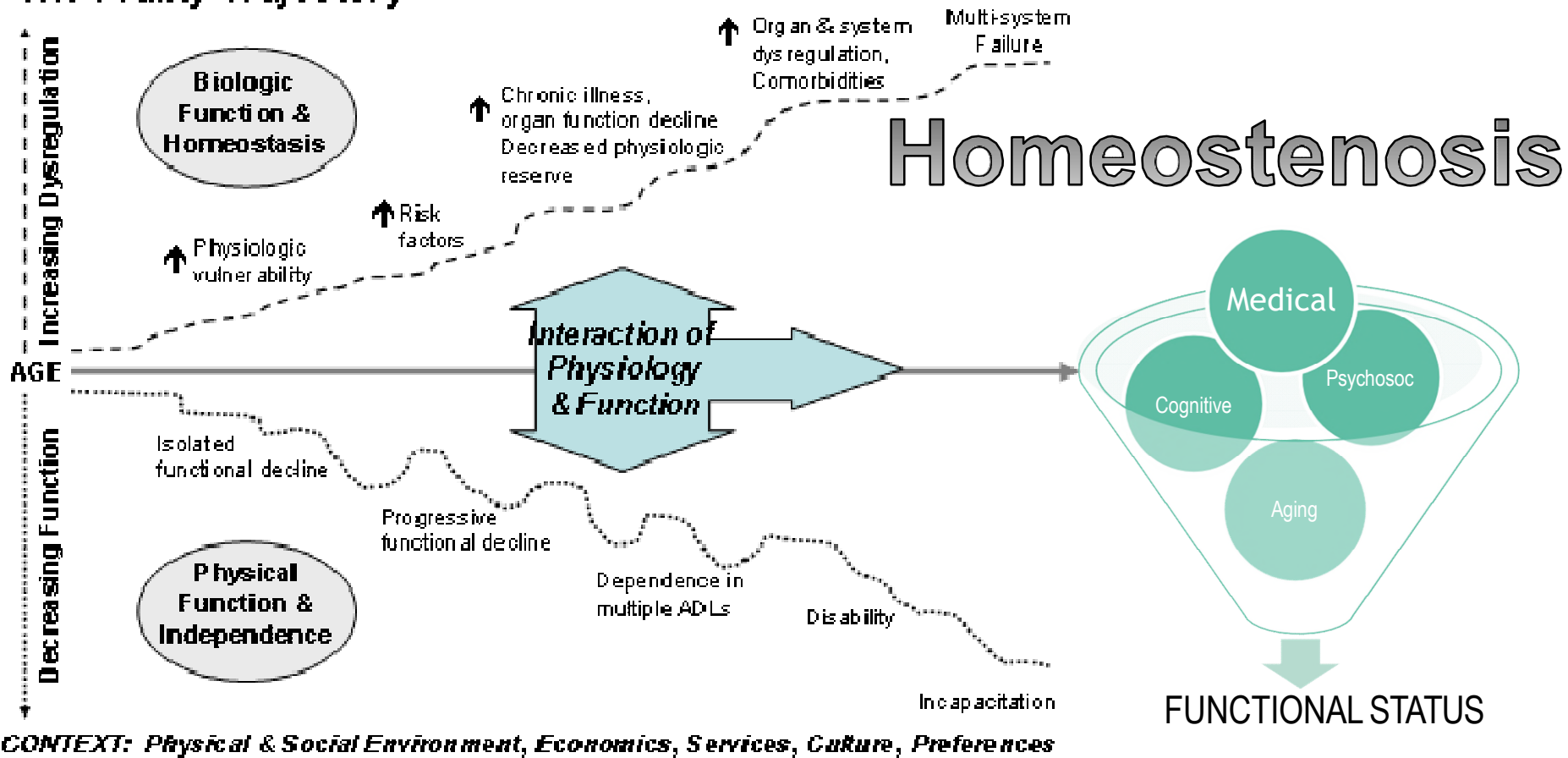
**A**ltered level of consciousness

If yes to #1 & 2 AND either 3 or 4, then +delirium



Keeler E, J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci. 2010 Jul;65(7):727-33

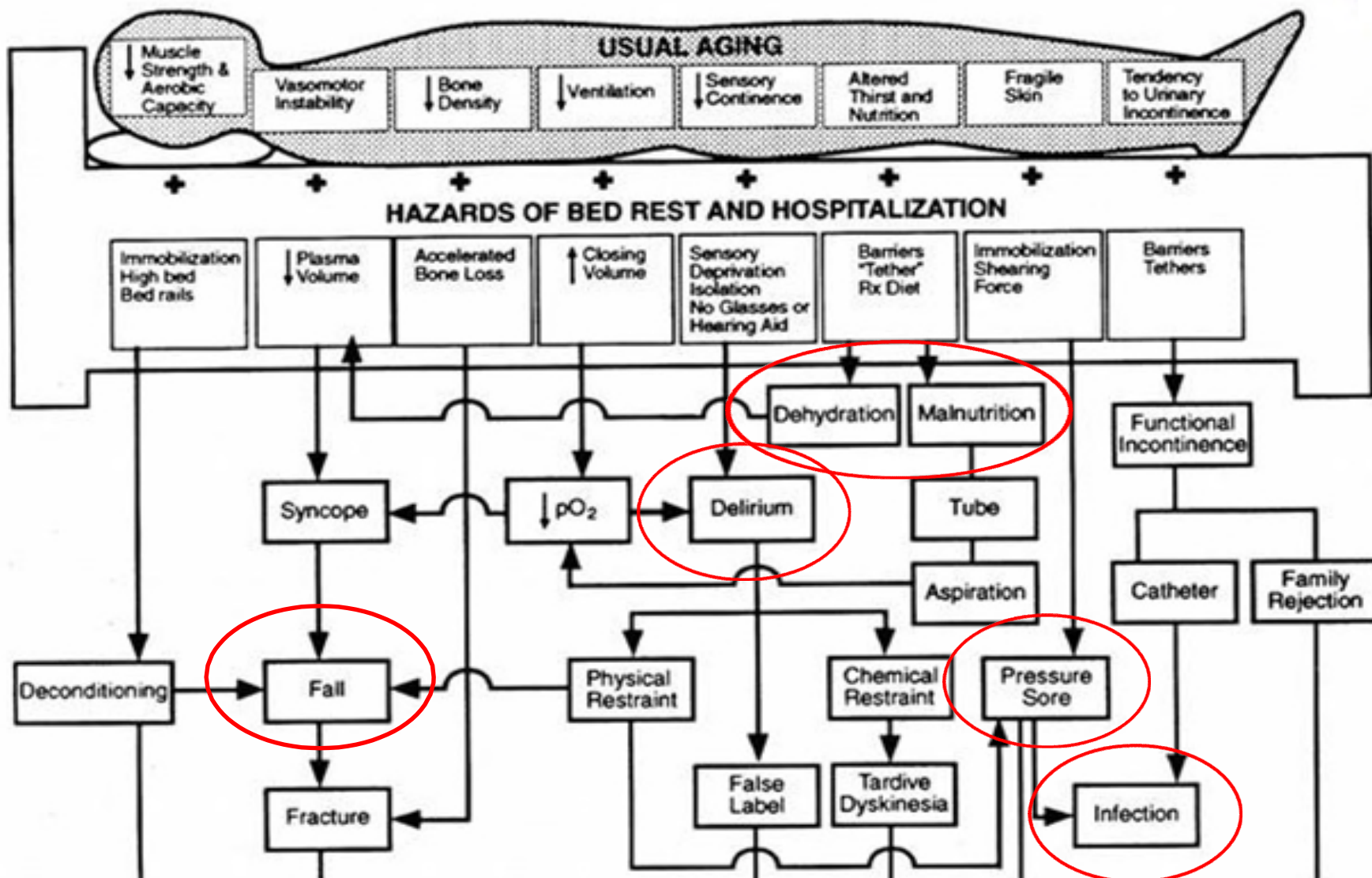
## The Frailty Trajectory



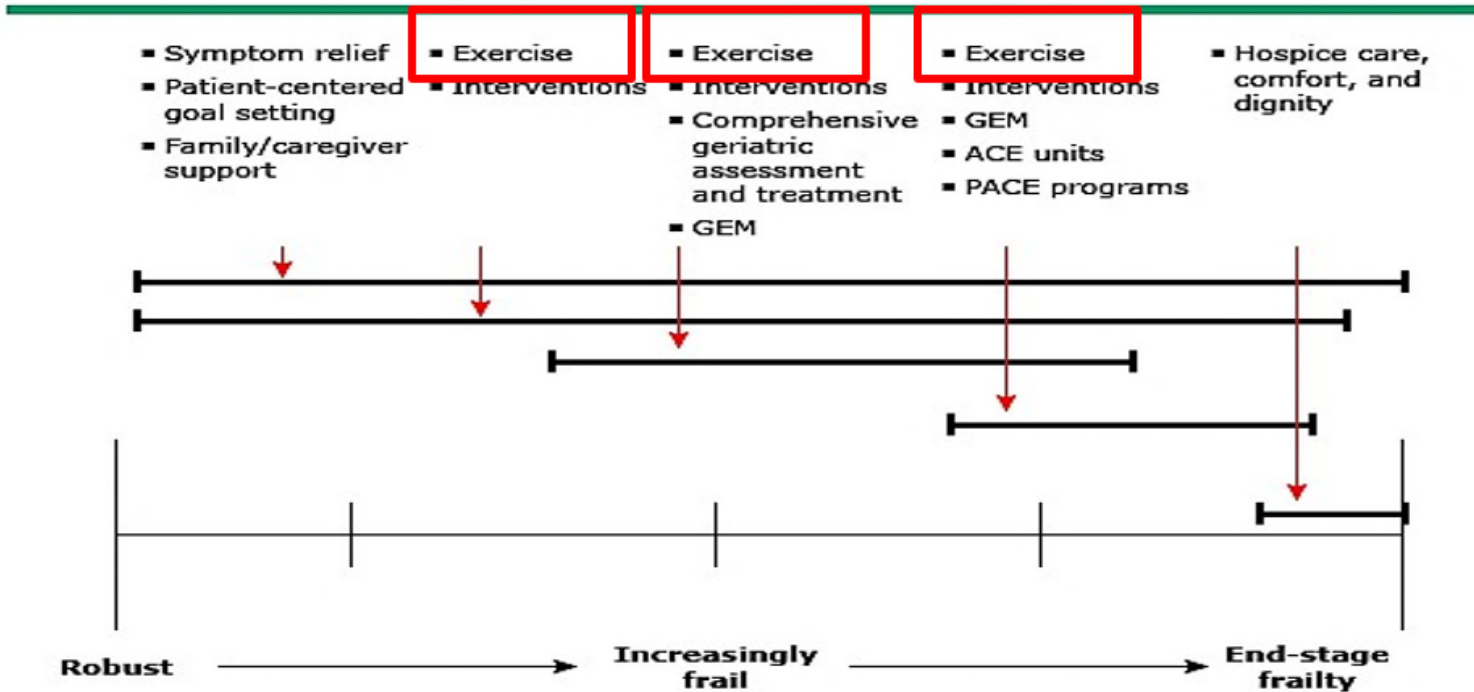
**Dimension to be evaluated and as an outcome to be improved or maintained**

## HAZARDS OF HOSPITALIZATION

- 30-40% lose > 1 basic ADL on discharge compared to pre-admission
  - 25-40% remain impaired 3 months later
- 20% readmitted within 30 days



## Potential interventions along the spectrum of frailty in older adults

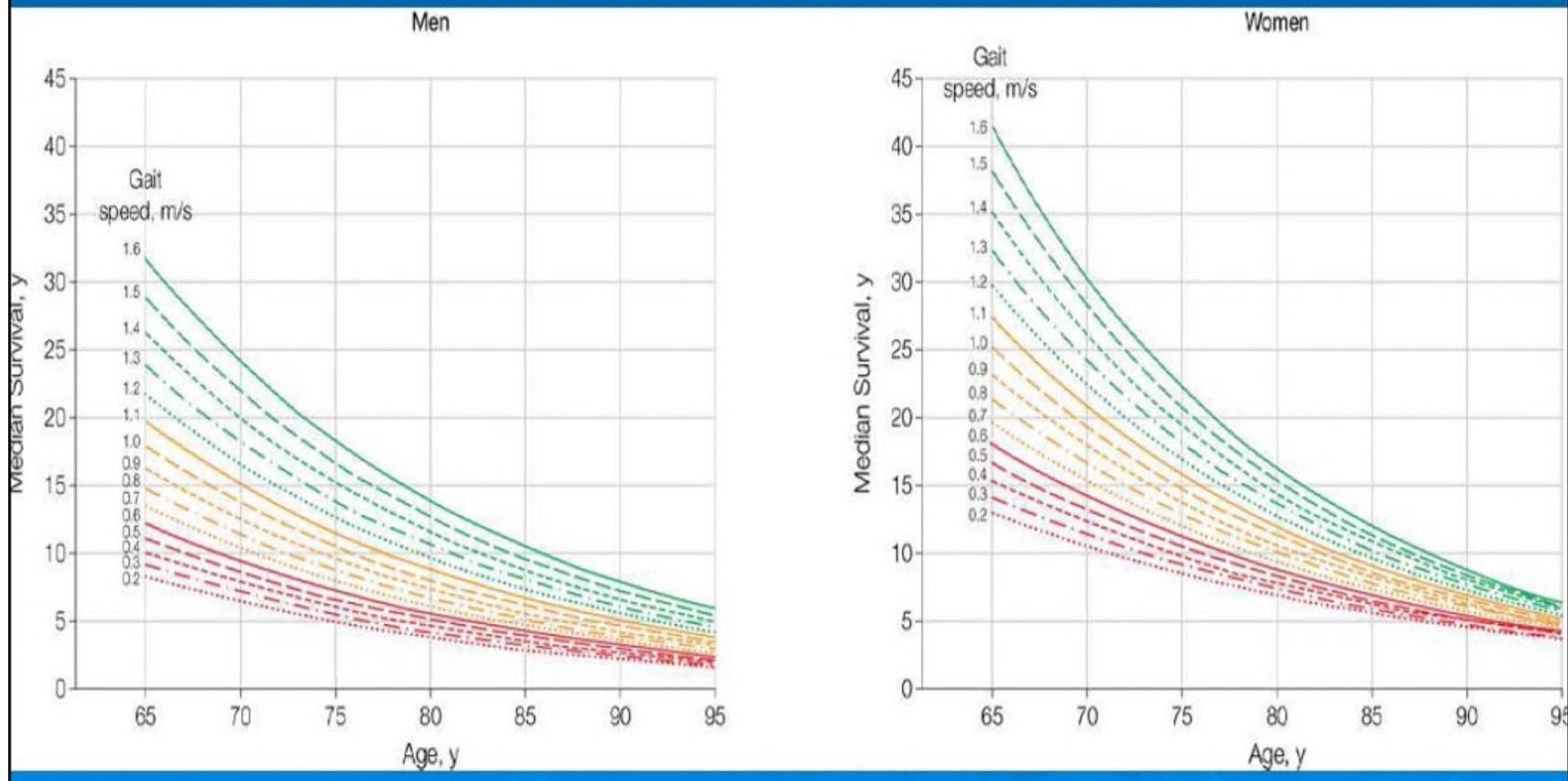


ACE unit: Acute Care for Elders unit; GEM: Geriatric Evaluation and Management; PACE: Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly.



# Predicted Median Life Expectancy by Age and Gait Speed

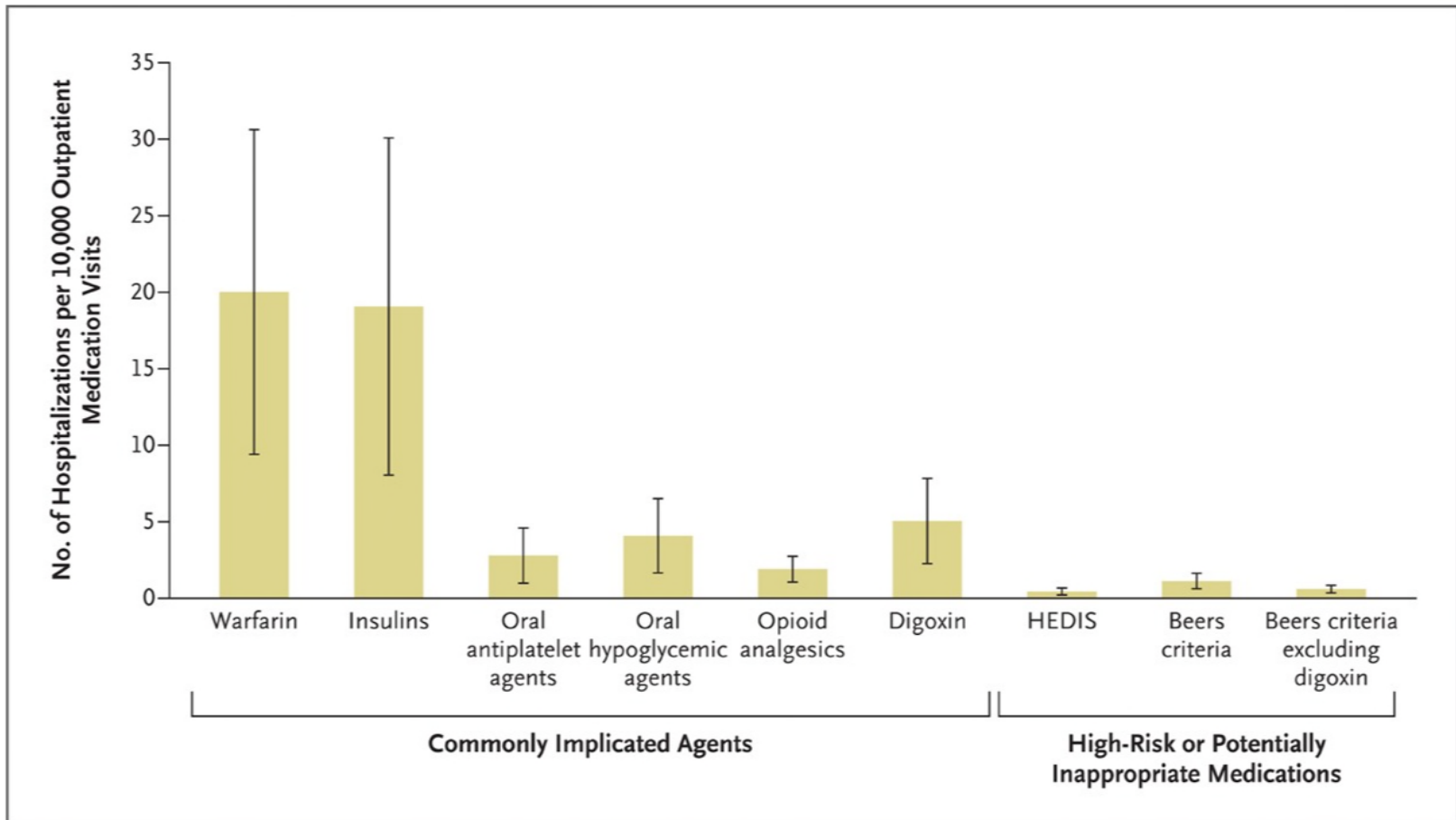
Instructions: Walk 4 m (13 ft) at usual pace



## Palliative Performance Scale (PPSv2) version 2

PPS Level	Ambulation	Activity & Evidence of Disease	Self-Care	Intake	Conscious Level
100%	Full	Normal activity & work No evidence of disease	Full	Normal	Full
90%	Full	Normal activity & work Some evidence of disease	Full	Normal	Full
80%	Full	Normal activity <i>with</i> Effort Some evidence of disease	Full	Normal or reduced	Full
70%	Reduced	Unable Normal Job/Work Significant disease	Full	Normal or reduced	Full
60%	Reduced	Unable hobby/house work Significant disease	Occasional assistance necessary	Normal or reduced	Full or Confusion
50%	Mainly Sit/Lie	Unable to do any work Extensive disease	Considerable assistance required	Normal or reduced	Full or Confusion
40%	Mainly in Bed	Unable to do most activity Extensive disease	Mainly assistance	Normal or reduced	Full or Drowsy +/- Confusion
30%	Totally Bed Bound	Unable to do any activity Extensive disease	Total Care	Normal or reduced	Full or Drowsy +/- Confusion
20%	Totally Bed Bound	Unable to do any activity Extensive disease	Total Care	Minimal to sips	Full or Drowsy +/- Confusion
10%	Totally Bed Bound	Unable to do any activity Extensive disease	Total Care	Mouth care only	Drowsy or Coma +/- Confusion
0%	Death	-	-	-	-

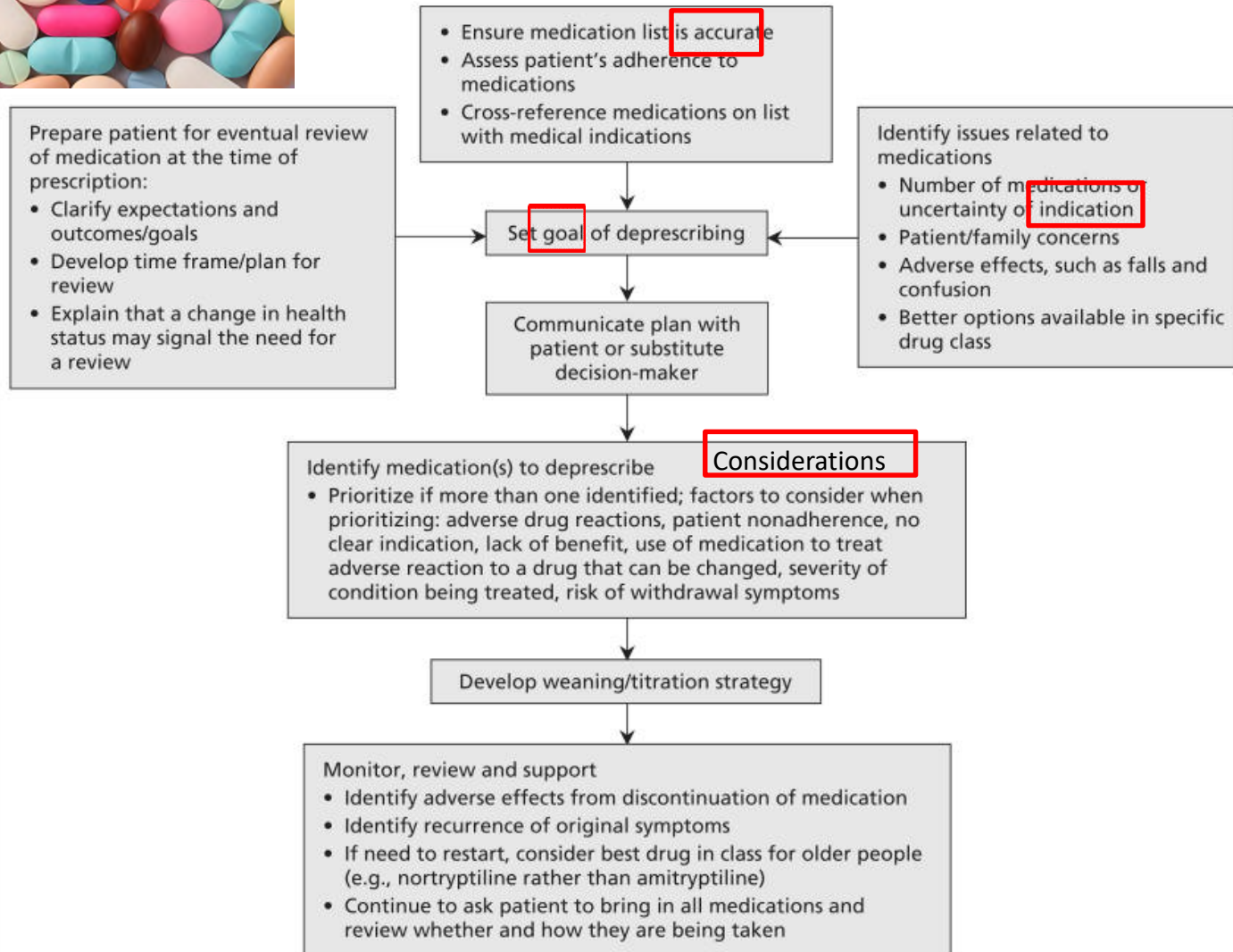
# EMERGENCY HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR ADEs







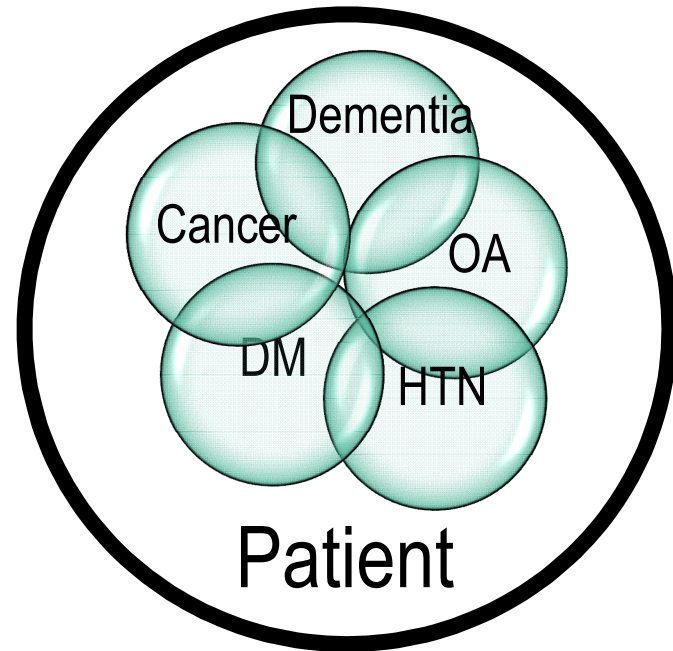
# DEPRESCRIBING





## AGS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Evidence
2. Prognosis
3. Feasibility
4. Optimization
5. Preferences

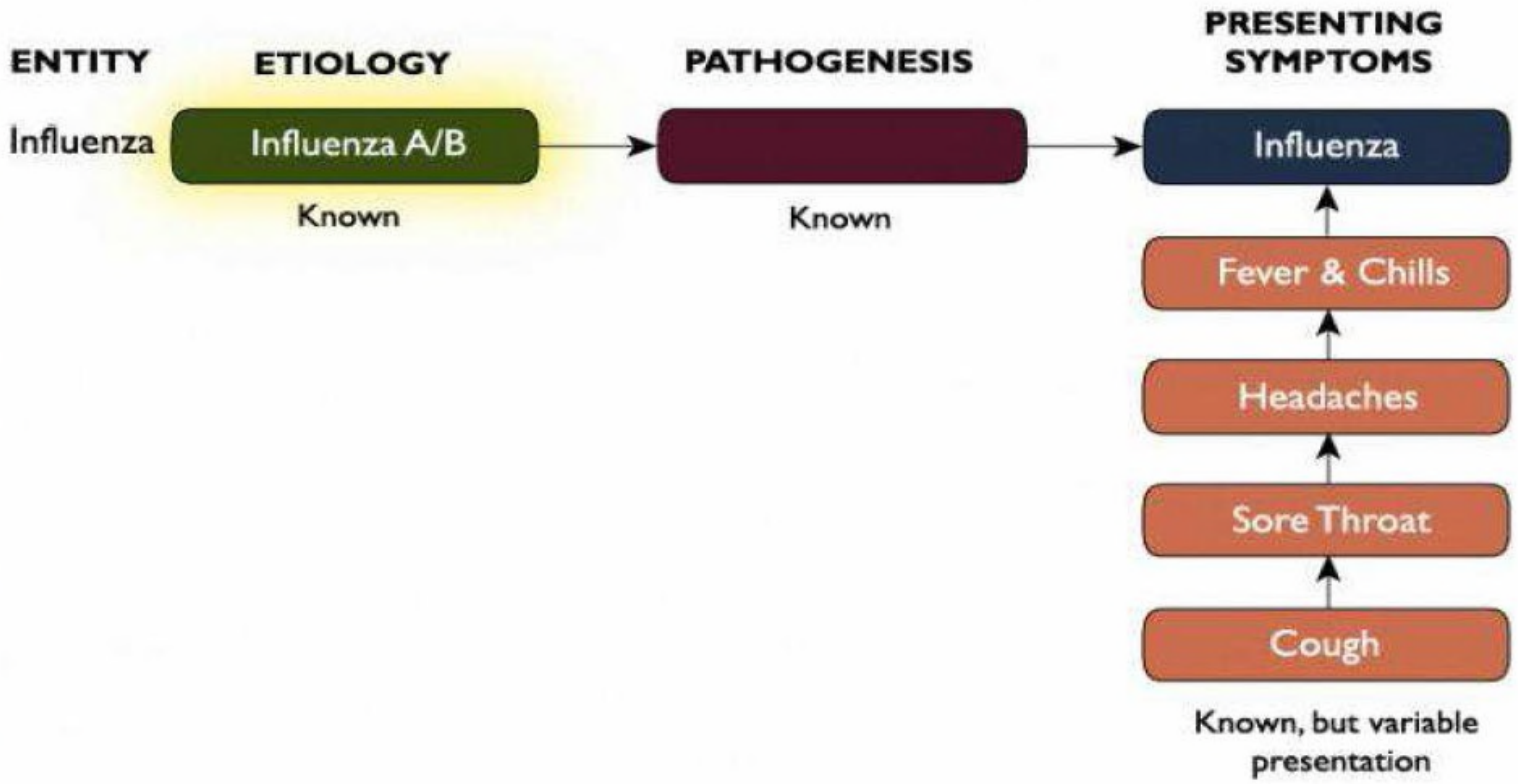


## MANAGING COMPLEXITY

- Embrace it
- Determine which disease process drives terminality
  - Tell the story
- Understand clinical evidence
- Check for QOL assumptions

# Linear Disease Presentation

Example of Linear Presentation of Illness

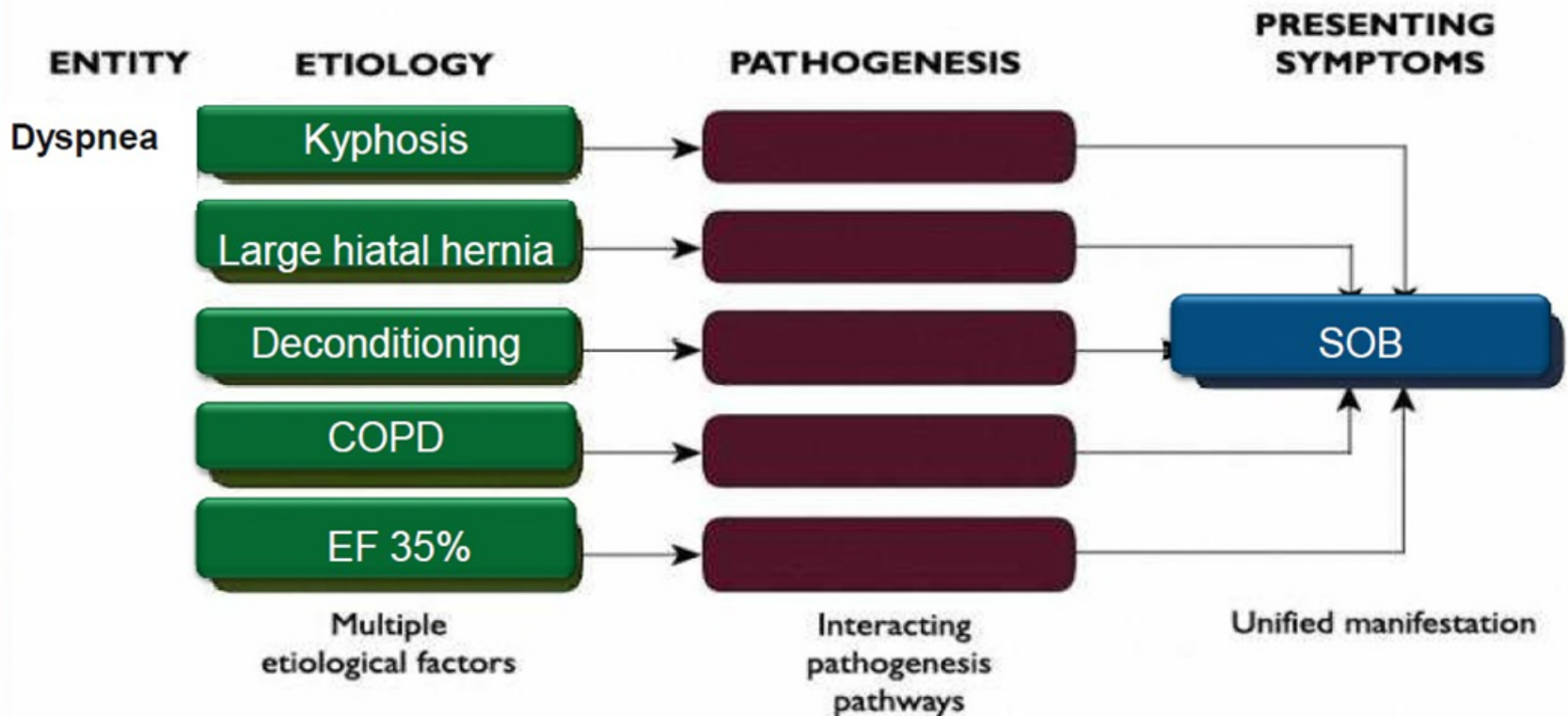


# Multifactorial Etiologies:

# SOB

# MULTIMORBIDITY

What are some other causes triggered by serious illness?



# 4 M's AGE-FRIENDLY HEALTH SYSTEM + 1 M

## **MIND** (Dementia/Delirium)

Diagnosis, Management, Team-based coordination

## **MOBILITY**

Function, Independence, Fall-Risk, Prevention

## **MEDICATIONS**

Polypharmacy, Deprescribing

## **MULTIMORBIDITY**

Management of heterogeneous older adults with multiple medical problems incorporating preferences, evidence-based medicine, prognosis, feasibility, and optimization (both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic) to individualize care plans

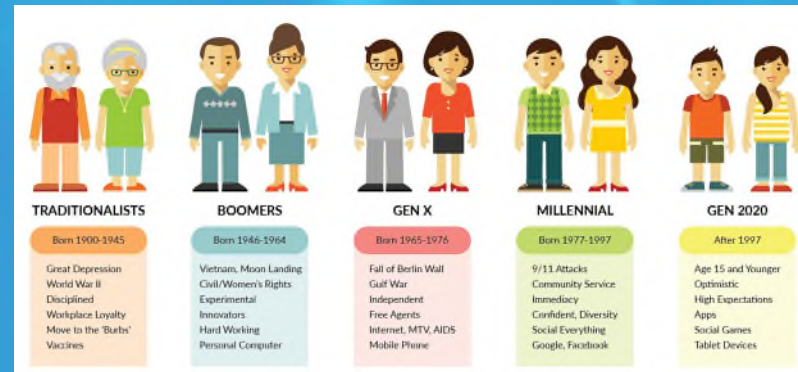
## **MATTERS MOST**

Values, Priorities, Treatment Goals

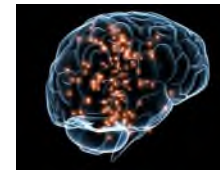




# ADDRESSING CULTURE WITH INTENTIONAL CURIOSITY




- **Age and cohort effects**
- **Degree of physical ability**
- **Degree of cognitive ability**
- **Religion**
- **Ethnicity and race**
- **Socioeconomic status**
- **Sexual orientation and gender identity**
- **Individualistic life experiences (including trauma, level of acculturation) – Trauma Informed Care**
- **National origin – Immigrant, Refugee,**
- **Gender role expectations – Family structure**



STRUCTURAL RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.



empowerment  
screening  
collaboration  
trustworthiness  
evaluation  
culture  
transparency  
mutuality  
support  
training  
Trauma-informed



**Meet Mr. Rodriguez**

# Dimensions of Geriatric Assessment

( with a focus on Social Determinants of Health)

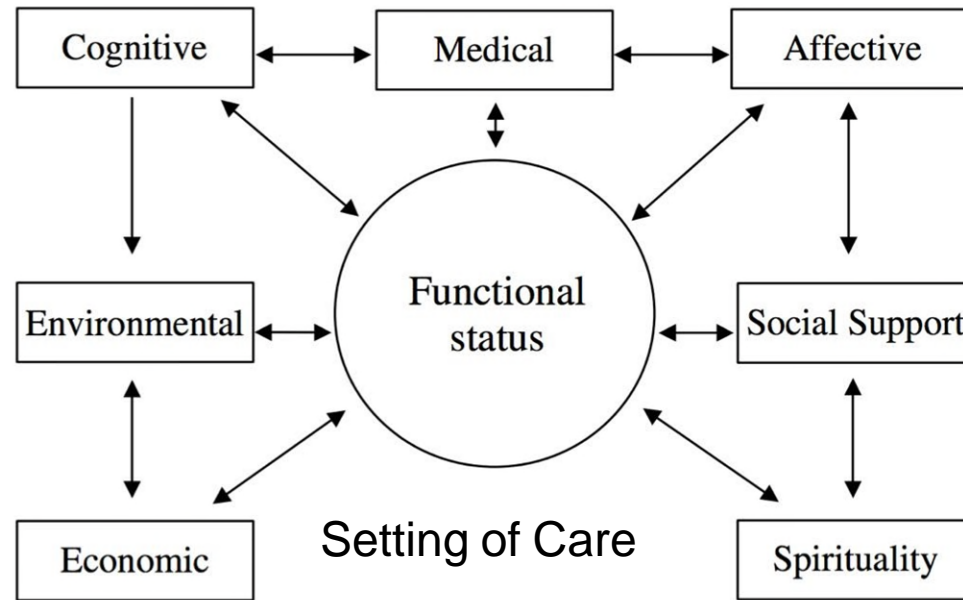


Fig 1. Interacting dimensions of geriatric assessment.

# Mr. R 80 yo Referred To Palliative Clinic With A New Lung Mass

- Diabetes BMI 26
- Arthritis
- MCI
- Depression
- Heart failure
- OP
- CAD s/p MI
- OA
- Dyslipidemia
- GERD
- Cataract
- Gout
- Psoriasis
- Vit B12 deficiency

# Mr. R's Medications

- Citalopram
- Pantoprazole
- Alendronate
- Acetaminophen
- Allopurinol
- Glipizide
- Aricept
- Carvedilol
- Cyanocobalmin
- Candesartan
- Lovastatin
- ASA
- Vitamin D



## After Your Visit

- Citalopram – d/c low Na
- Pantoprazole – d/c no indication
- Alendronate – d/c time to benefit
- Acetaminophen – check dose
- Allopurinol – check uric acid
- Glipizide – check A1c
- Aricept- confirm indication
- Metoprolol – check VS
- Cyanocobalamin – check B12
- Lovastatin – check ldl
- ASA – check risk factors
- Vitamin D - keep

# Applying the 'Evidence'

## ➤ UNCERTAIN

### Likelihood of Benefit

- Magnitude of Effect
- Time to Benefit
- Life Expectancy
- Other Tx options
- Ability to 'adhere'



## ➤ UNCERTAIN

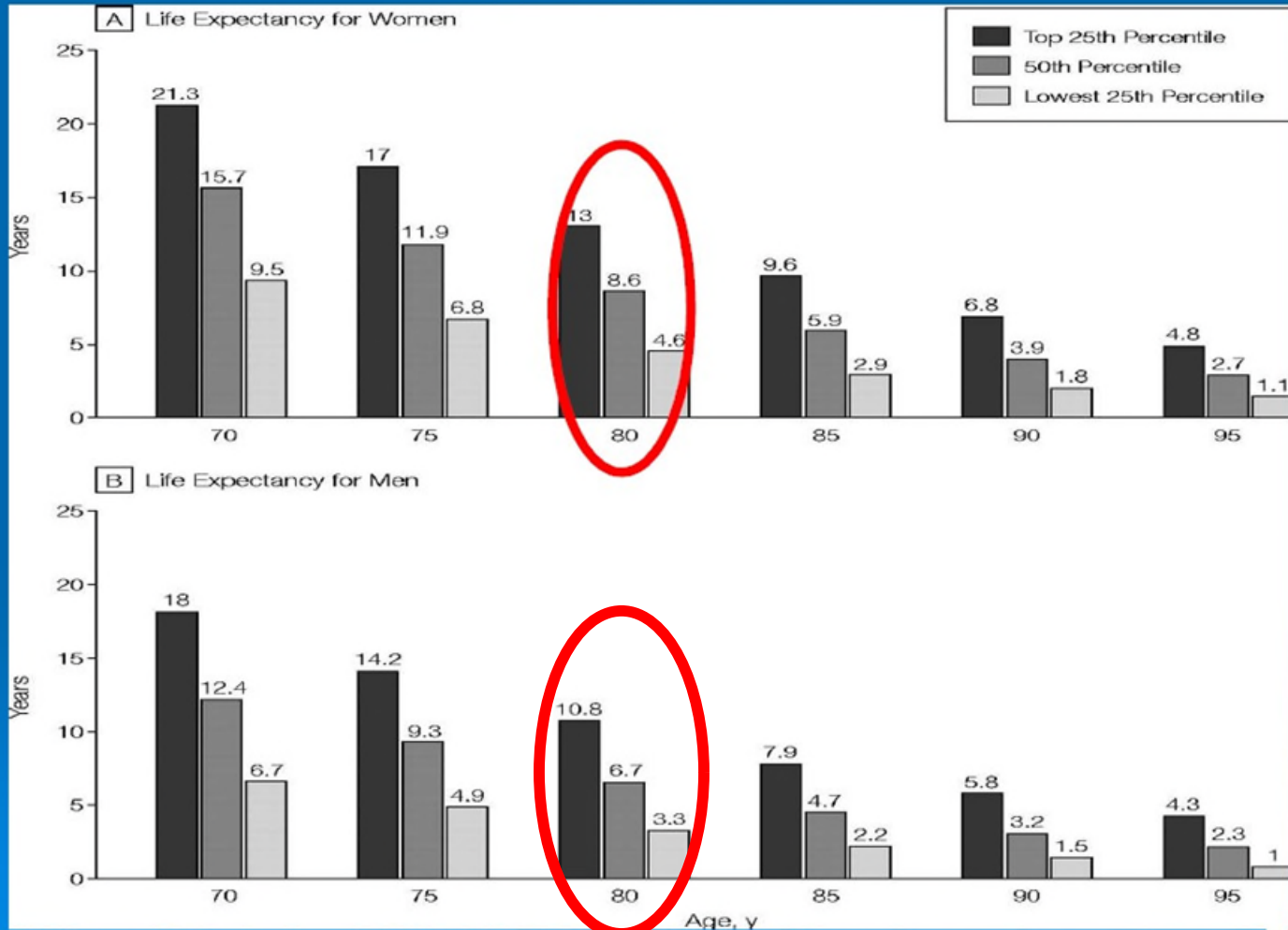
### Likelihood of Harms

- From Screening
- From Treatment
- Patient burden

**Patient Preferences**

**Societal Concerns**

# Upper, Middle, and Lower Quartiles of Life Expectancy

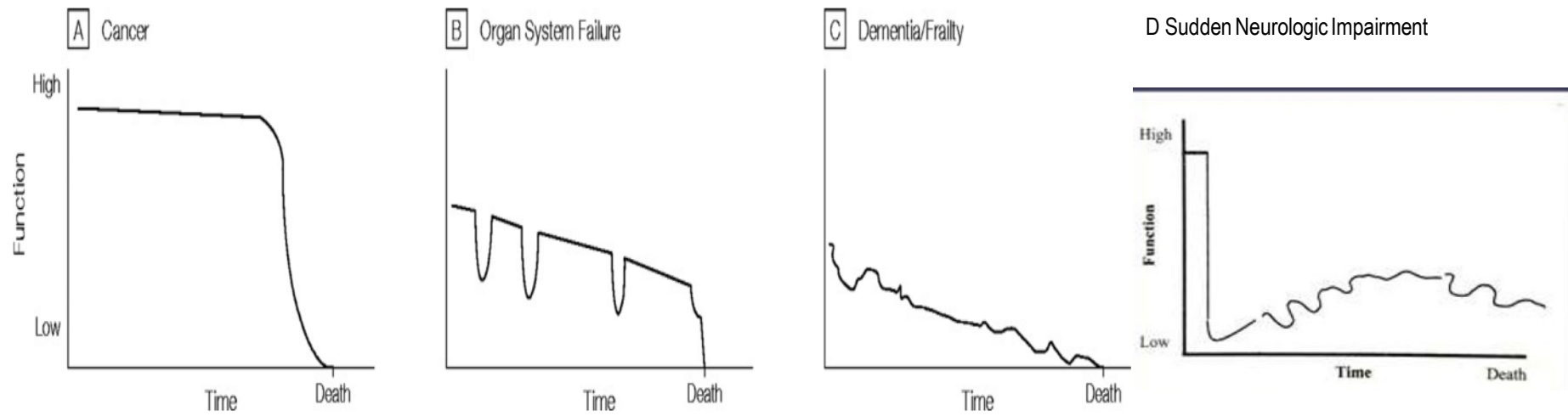


Walter and Covinsky JAMA 2001: 285:2750-2756

JAMA

# General Trajectories of Function and Well-being Over Time in Eventually Fatal Chronic Illnesses

## Prognostication- Navigating Uncertainty



**Best case, worse case and anticipatory guidance**

**Reframing and restaging a “Trial”**

43



Lynn, Serving patients who may die soon and their families. The role of hospice and other services. JAMA 2001.

# Eprognosis Calculators

## Where is your patient?

### Living in the Community

15 month mortality

- [Mazzaglia Index](#)

➤ 2 year mortality

- [Carey 2 Year Index](#)

➤ 3 year mortality

- [Carey 3 Year Index](#)

➤ 4 year mortality

- [Lee Index](#)

➤ 5 year mortality

- [Schonberg Index](#)

### Living in a Nursing Home

6 month mortality

- [Porock 6 Month Minimum Data Set Mortality Risk Index - Revised](#)

➤ 1 year mortality

- [Flacker 1 Year Newly Admitted Revised Index](#)
- [Flacker 1 Year Long Stay Revised Index](#)

### Hospitalized

1 year mortality on discharge

- [Levine Index](#)
- [Walter Index](#)

➤ 1 Year mortality on admission

- [Di Bari 1 Year Silver Code](#)
- [Fischer 1 Year CARING Index](#)
- [Inouye 1 Year Index](#)
- [Pilotto Index 1 Year and 1 Month Modified Index](#)
- [Teno 1 Year Help Model](#)

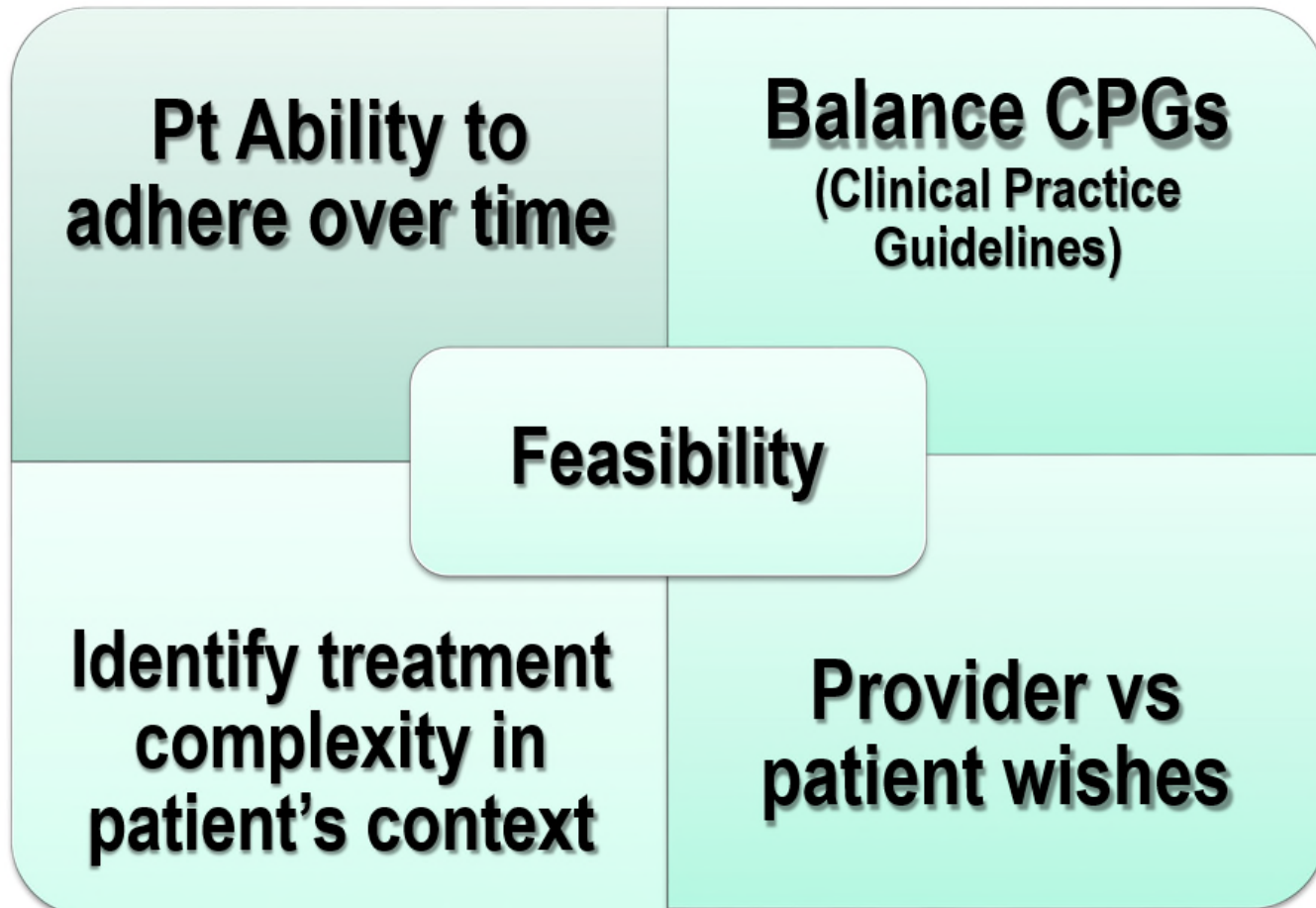
➤ 2 Year mortality

- [Dramé Index](#)

[www.ePrognosis.org](http://www.ePrognosis.org)



# Shared Decision Making With Mr. Rodriguez




# Optimization

1. Minimize Harm
2. Maximize Benefit
3. Enhance Quality of Life



**IDT team is critical**



**Mr. Rodriguez**

# IN SUMMARY

- Geriatric and Palliative principles are rooted in person-centered care



- Clinical themes are synergistic
- Values & priorities matter
- Know the evidence
- Be curious
- Remember the 5 M's