

Optimal use of antipsychotics in residents of Québec's residential and long-term care centres with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD)

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Québec's Ministry of Health and Social Services (MSSS) is concerned about the increasing use of antipsychotics in elderly residents of residential and long-term care centres with major neurocognitive disorders. Antipsychotics are associated with a risk of serious adverse effects and are frequently administered in this population outside the indications approved by Health Canada, specifically, to treat different BPSD.

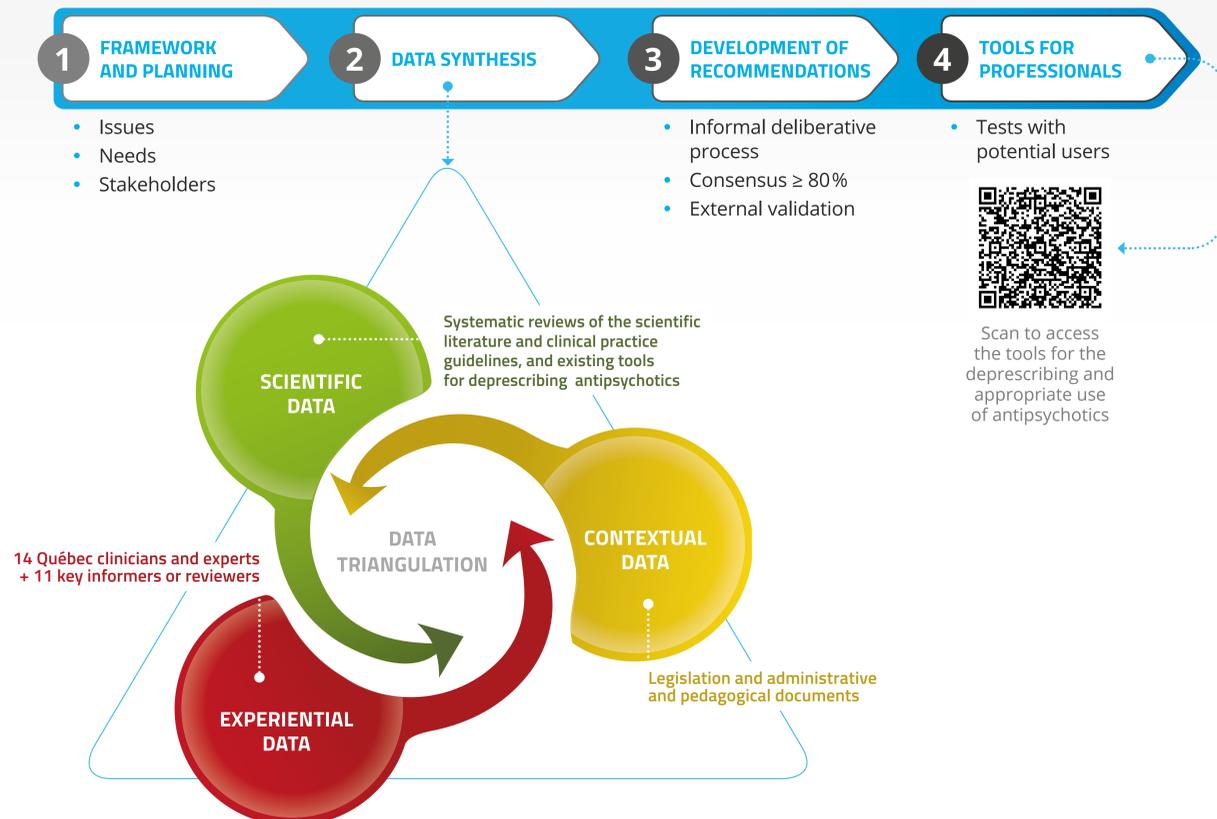
Objectives

Against this background, the MSSS asked INESSS to:

- ▶ Propose strategies for promoting the optimal use of antipsychotics in residential and long-term care centres residents who have major neurocognitive disorders and BPSD.
- ▶ Develop clinical recommendations and decision support tools for care teams.



METHODOLOGY



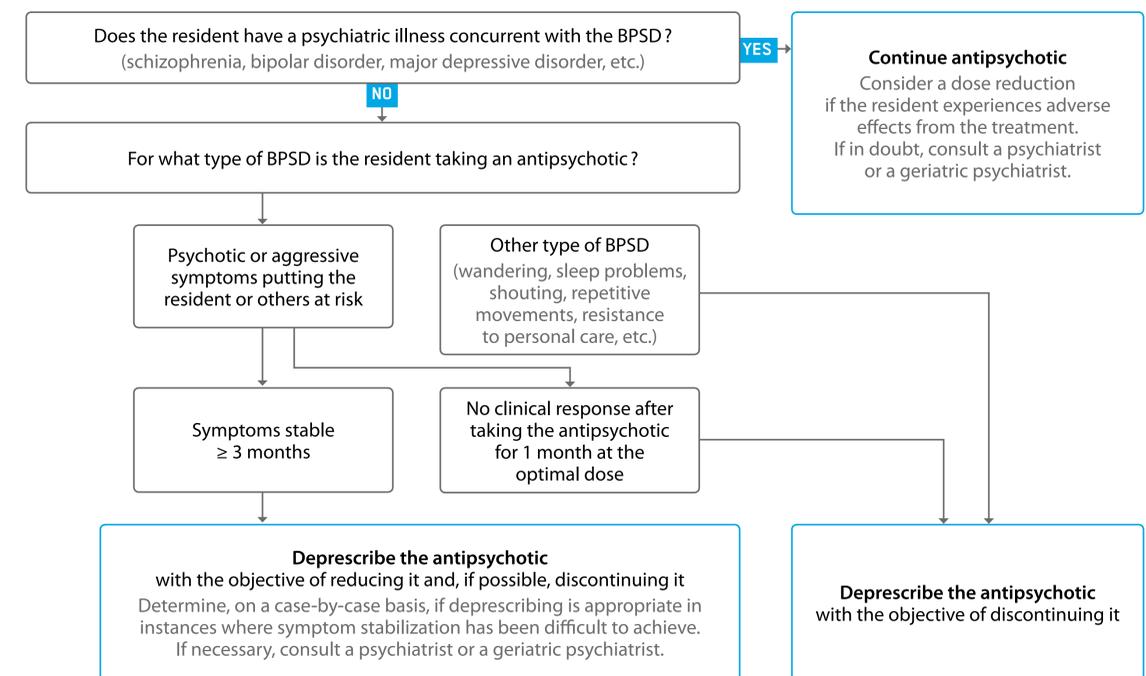
RESULTS

The data triangulation revealed two effective clinical strategies for promoting optimal antipsychotic use:

- ▶ **Deprescribing antipsychotics.** This could be attempted in most persons with BPSD, with no significant change in behaviour. However, certain conditions apply.
- ▶ **Multiple-intervention programs** with a training component, for care teams, on the nonpharmacological management of BPSD.

The recommendations for deprescribing antipsychotics have been transposed into a decision support tool for care teams, which is supplemented by a tool stating the conditions for initiating and reevaluating antipsychotic therapy in residential and long-term care centres residents with BPSD.

Deprescribing antipsychotics: The importance of rigorous resident selection



CONCLUSION

The decision support tools developed by INESSS are currently being disseminated to and implemented in Québec's residential and long-term care centres as part of the roll-out of the OPUS-AP collaborative approach. This approach, which is based on a Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement initiative and on leading-edge expertise available in Québec, is aimed at reducing the use of antipsychotics in persons with BPSD.