Patients who could benefit from Patient Priorities Care

While appropriate for everyone, Patient Priorities Care is particularly suited for the large segment of older adults with increasing numbers of chronic conditions and functional limitations for whom disease guideline based decision-making is uncertain as shown in the Figure. These individuals must manage multiple conditions and navigate multiple clinicians. They receive a lot of care that is often burdensome and may not address what matters most to them.

Figure 1: Decision-making and care of older adults with multiple chronic conditions

- Are disease-specific evidence-based guidelines applicable
  - Yes
  - Uncertain
  - No
  - Few conditions
  - Fit & functional
  - Increasing #/severity of conditions
  - Impaired function
- Disease-based guidelines as consistent with patient preferences
- Patient Priorities Care: Current Care Planning
- De-escalate treatments
  - Palliative care
  - Symptom management


If desired, appropriate patients can be identified through administrative data using combinations of characteristics such as:

a. Multiple Chronic Conditions (e.g. presence of ≥3 active health problems)
b. >10 medications
c. > 1 hospitalization over the past year
d. > 2 emergency department visits over the past year
e. Seen by >2 specialists (excluding gynecology, ophthalmology) over the past year

Alternatively, clinicians can identify patients in their care who they feel could benefit from this approach to decision-making and care.

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