Harm from cardiovascular medications: the omitted ‘C’?
Chariclia Paradissis1,2, Ian Coombes1,2, Neil Cottrell1, Ian Scott3,4, William Wang3,4, Michael Barras1,3

1 School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland, Brisbane; 2 Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Brisbane; 3 Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane; 4 Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland, Brisbane

Introduction
• Cardiovascular (CV) medications are the leading cause of medication harm within older adults admitted to RBWH.

Aim/objective
To determine the scale and burden of medication harm caused by CV medications across healthcare settings.

Method
• PubMed and CINAHL databases searched
• Included studies investigated adult medication harm on admission, during admission, after discharge and causing readmission
• Harm caused by CV medications described and ranked

Results
• 75 studies included: 10 systematic reviews, 14 literature reviews & case-control studies, 51 observational studies
• CV medications ranked TOP FIVE cause of harm and responsible for:
  of medication harm within adults
  of medication harm within ≥65 years
  Prolonged hospital stay and intensive care admission

Table 1: Proportion (% range) of medication harm caused by cardiovascular (CV) medications across four key healthcare settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthcare setting</th>
<th>Hospital presentation</th>
<th>During admission</th>
<th>Discharge</th>
<th>Readmission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion (% range)</td>
<td>9.5-74%</td>
<td>8-44%</td>
<td>8-56%</td>
<td>17-44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Studies</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The omitted ‘C’?

Fig 1. Proposal to add ‘C’ for cardiovascular to ‘APINCH’ as a high-risk medication

Conclusion
CV medications are a leading cause of medication harm and this could be acknowledged by adding ‘C’ into ‘APINCH’ (Fig. 1)