

Have you *SCAND MMe Please?* A framework for nurses to prevent harm during acute hospitalisation

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PROBLEM:

- Preventable harms are a significant problem for health systems worldwide.¹
- National and international recommendations and best practices guide care of older people in hospital.¹
- Nurses’ responsibilities include preventing harms during hospitalisation.
- Nurses’ workloads and administrative burdens associated with harm prevention involve numerous assessment forms, are cognitively taxing, time demanding, confusing, and sometimes overwhelming.^{2,3}
- To date, the success of harm reduction or prevention strategies in acute hospitals has been limited.
- Hospital harm prevention strategies often do not comprehensively address the multiple interrelated factors that contribute to common preventable harms affecting older hospitalised patients.²

METHODS:

The mnemonic ‘*Have you SCAND MMe Please?*’ represents a framework of eight factors, sensitive to the quality of nursing care, that contribute to preventable harms common in older hospitalised patients, drawn from best practice guidelines.^{4,5,6}

Two studies used the framework of eight factors that contribute to preventable harms common in older people in hospital.

1. Examination of 152 standard assessment forms across 11 hospitals, and 9 focus groups with 69 participants.²
2. Retrospective audit of nursing care documented in 400 medical records of older medical inpatients admitted for longer than 72 hours at four hospitals, and interviews with 33 staff.⁷

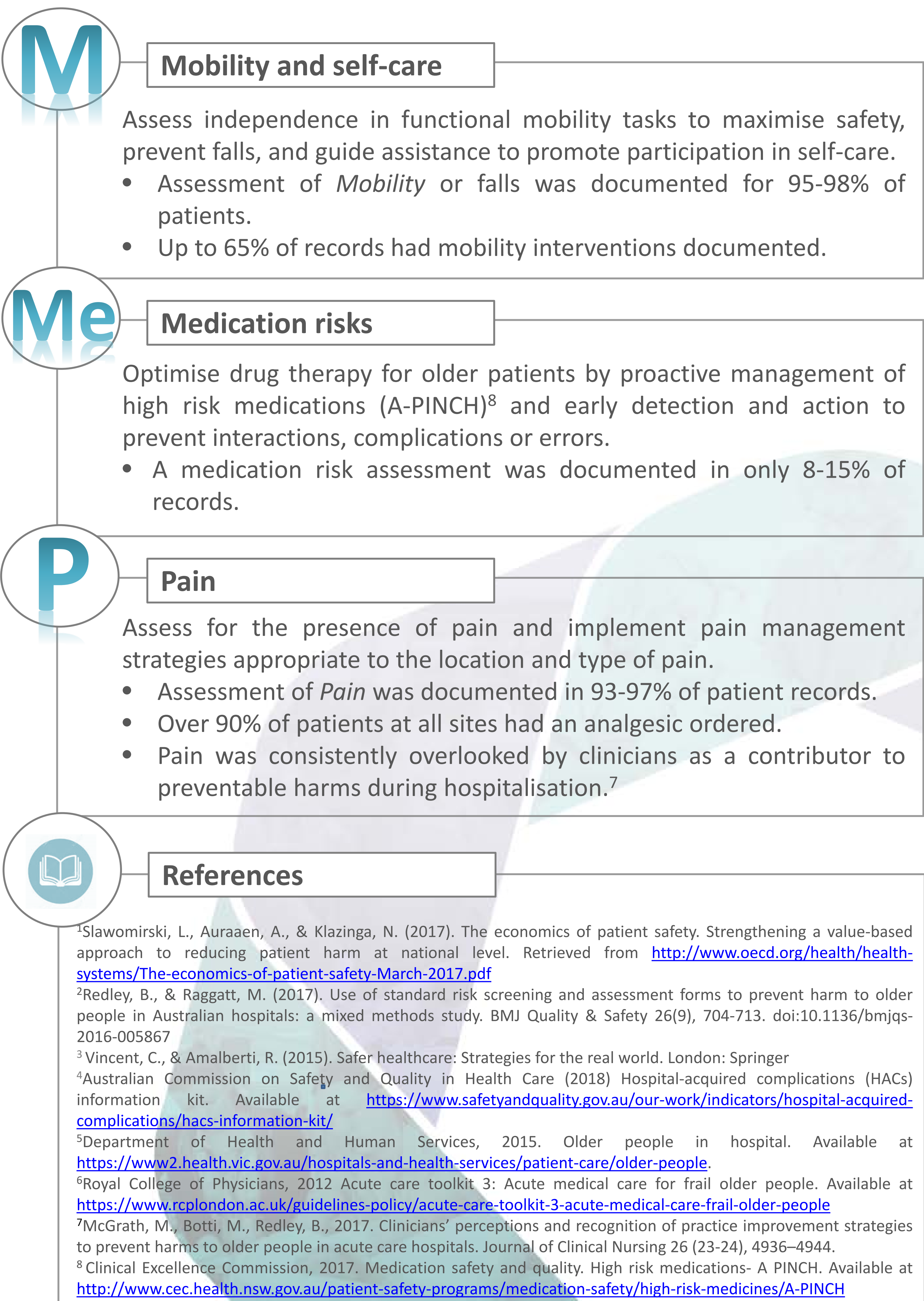
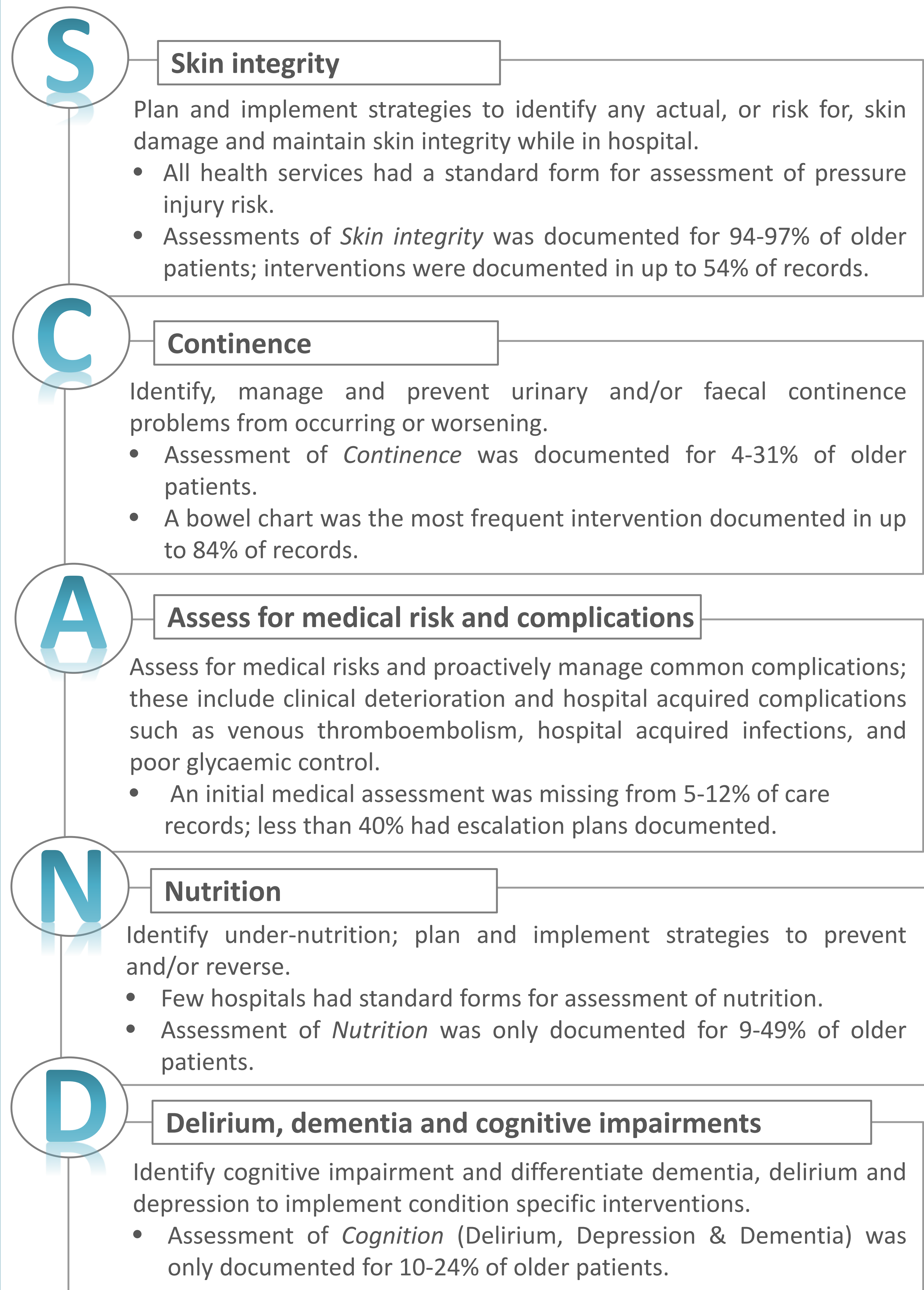
All data were collected from public and private hospitals in Victoria, Australia.

AIM:

The aim of this paper is to present a framework to guide comprehensive high quality nursing care to prevent harms common to older patients in hospital.

CONCLUSION:

Have you SCAND MMe Please? mnemonic provides a framework to assist nurses to recall and implement comprehensive harm prevention strategies for safety for older hospitalised patients.



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