Prescription characteristics associated with fall-related injury risk among older adults prescribed benzodiazepines (BZD)

Medicare beneficiaries with Part D prescription drug coverage were assigned to retrospective cohorts.

Two cohorts of patients:
1. received a new BZD Rx (n= 379,273)
2. received a continued BZD Rx (n= 509,634)

In each cohort among those who received a BZD Rx, what are risk factors associated with increased risk of fall-related injury in the 30d after receiving the BZD Rx?

Increased Risk of a Fall

Short-term BZD prescription
Prescription of <14 days

Certain medication combinations
BZD + opioids, antipsychotics, or antiepileptics

Clinicians should recognize that patients who receive a smaller supply of BZD are at INCREASED risk of fall-related injury.