Appendix J: Medications That Can Cause Urinary Incontinence in Persons

To search the uses and side effects of specific medications, please visit the Government of Canada's Drug Product Database at: https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp

MEDICATIONS	EFFECTS ON CONTINENCE
Alpha adrenergic agonists	■ Increase smooth muscle tone in urethra and prostatic capsule, and may precipitate obstruction, urinary retention and related symptoms.
Alpha adrenergic antagonists	■ Decrease smooth muscle tone in the urethra and may precipitate stress urinary incontinence in women.
Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors	■ Cause chronic cough that can exacerbate stress urinary incontinence.
Anticholinergics	■ May cause impaired emptying, urinary retention and constipation that can contribute to urinary incontinence. ■ May cause cognitive impairment and reduce effective toileting ability.
Antispasmodics	■ May cause urinary retention.
Beta blockers	■ May cause urinary retention.
Calcium channel blockers	■ May cause impaired emptying, urinary retention and constipation that can contribute to urinary incontinence. ■ May cause dependent edema, which can contribute to nocturnal polyuria.
Cholinesterase inhibitors	■ Increase bladder contractility and may precipitate urgency urinary incontinence.
Diuretics	■ Cause diuresis and precipitate urinary incontinence.
Lithium	■ Polyuria due to diabetes insipidus.
Opioid analgesics	■ May cause urinary retention, constipation, confusion and immobility, all of which can contribute to urinary incontinence.

MEDICATIONS	EFFECTS ON CONTINENCE
Psychotropic drugs, sedatives, hypnotics, antipsychotics, histamine1 receptor antagonists	■ May cause confusion and impaired mobility and precipitate urinary incontinence.
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors	■ Increase cholinergic transmission and may lead to urinary incontinence.
Sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor	■ Glycosuria and polyuria, and increased propensity for urinary tract infections.
Others (gabapentin, glitazones, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents)	■ Can cause edema, which can lead to nocturnal polyuria and cause nocturia and night-time urinary incontinence.

Source: Adapted by the expert panel from: Abrams P, Cardozo L, Wagg A, et al., editors. Incontinence [Internet]. 6th ed. Bristol (UK): ICI Books; 2017. Chapter 11, Incontinence in frail older persons; p. 1323-4. Available from: https://www.ics.org/publications/ici_6/Incontinence_6th_Edition_2017_eBook_v2.pdf