

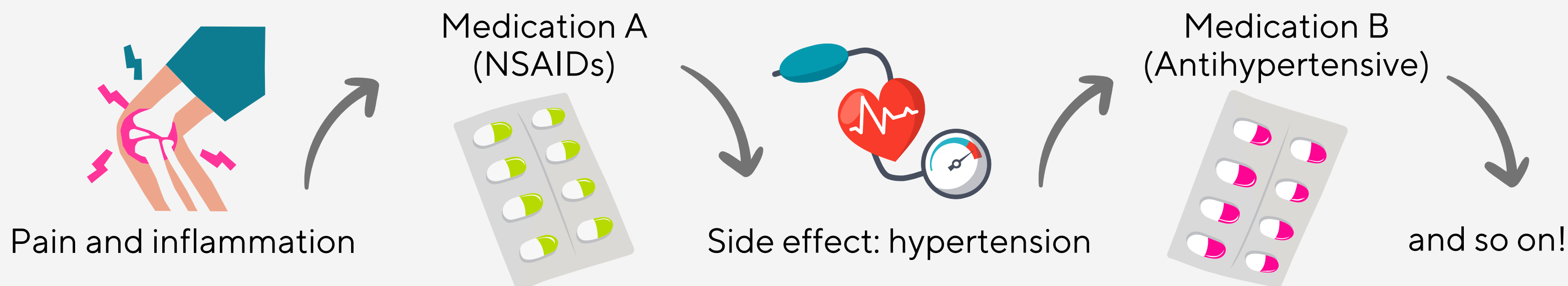
# PRESCRIBING CASCADES IN OLDER ADULTS:

## A GUIDE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



### What is a prescribing cascade?

When the **side effect of a drug is misinterpreted for a new medical condition**, resulting in the prescription of another medication



### What's the problem?

If prescribing recommendations are followed for each issue separately, older adults may be given medications that **increase their risk for adverse drug events and interactions**



### What to do?

**Review the medications!**



### Factors to consider as a healthcare provider...

**Is the first medication the only option to treat the original condition?**

- Can the dose be reduced?

**Can the side effects of the first drug be managed without the second drug?**

- How severe is the side effect?

**Does the patient need drug therapy?**



To identify other clinically important prescribing cascades, visit the link below:



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9477172/>

To learn more, read: **Five things to know about prescribing cascades in older adults**



<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/193/6/E215>