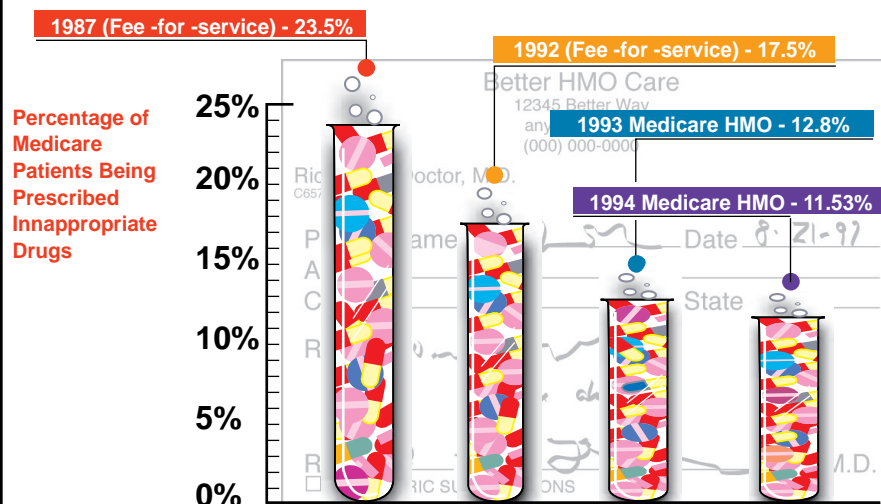


# HMOs Lowering Inappropriate Medications of Elderly Medicare Patients.

A recent study found that 5-15% of elderly hospitalizations, and up to 45% of hospital re-admissions, are related to medication problems, which have a whopping \$20 billion price tag each year!

The good news is that Medicare patients belonging to HMOs are receiving dramatically fewer inappropriate medications than the fee-for-service Medicare patients



The bad news is that one out of nine Medicare HMO patients are still being prescribed inappropriate drugs.

Source: Futterman R, Fillit H, Roglieri JL. Use of ineffective or unsafe medications among members of a Medicare HMO compared to individuals in a Medicare fee-for service program. *Am J Man Care* 1997; 3: 569 - 575.