

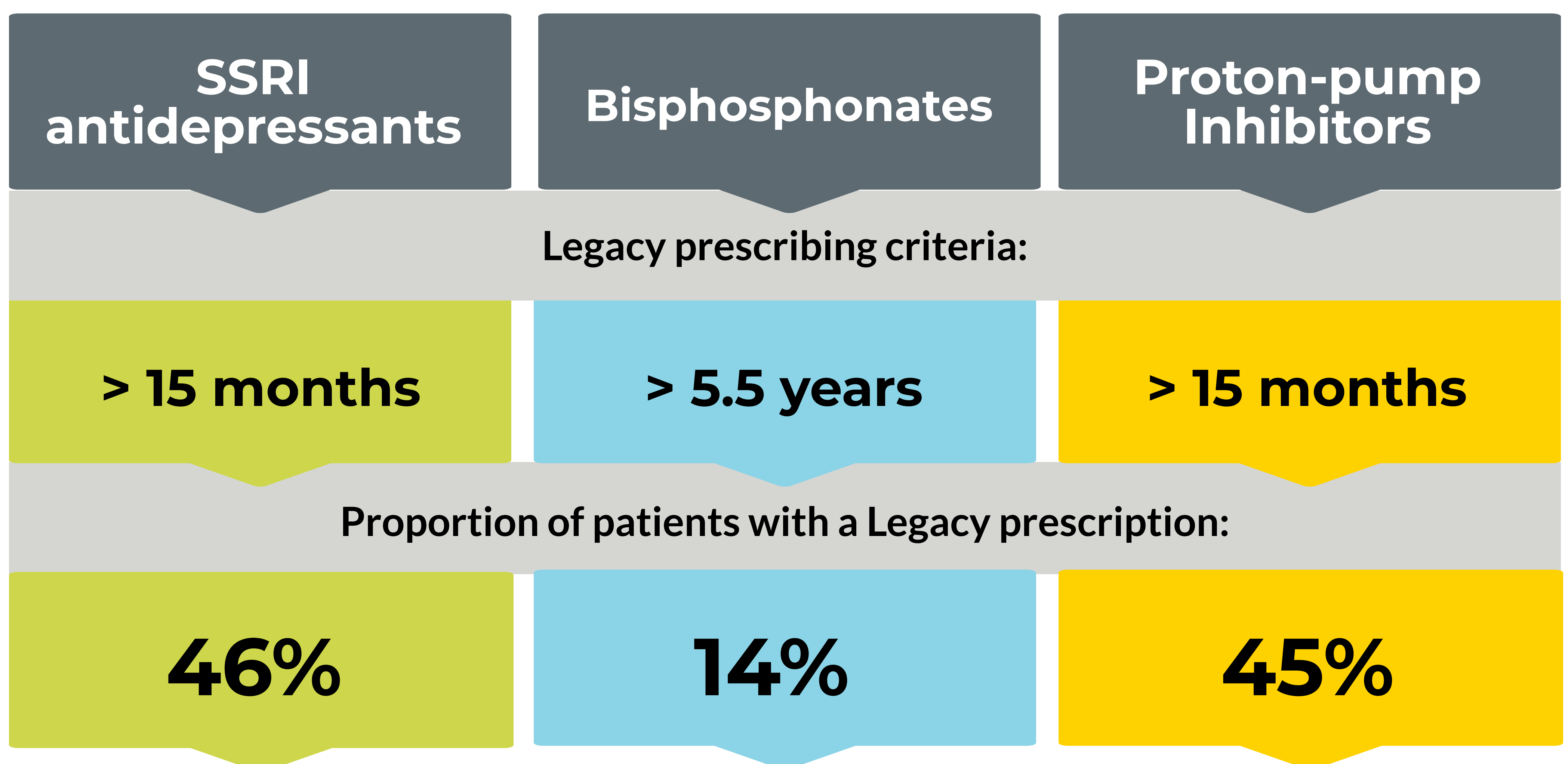
Legacy Drug-Prescribing in Primary Care

Polypharmacy is a key clinical challenge for primary care

'Legacy Prescribing'

when drugs are not discontinued after their usual effective or recommended period

Using a data set of **50,813 adult patients** from 2010-2016 from the McMaster Family Health Team, the researchers evaluated the proportion of patients with legacy prescribing in **three common drug classes**, one for psychological symptoms, one for physical symptoms, and one for reducing risk of future illness:



Legacy prescribing is a common occurrence and potentially a key contributor to polypharmacy, suggesting an opportunity for **system-level intervention in primary care**, including quality indicators, **with enormous potential benefit for patients**

Mangin D, Lawson J, Cuppage J, Shaw E, Ivanyi K, Davis A, Risdon C. Legacy Drug-Prescribing Patterns in Primary Care. *Annals of Family Medicine* 2018; 16(6):515-520. doi.org/10.1370/afm.2315