

To inject or to inject twice... that is the question

An Audit Evaluating the Use of Long-Acting Antipsychotics in South Australia

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Introduction

Long-acting injectable (LAI) antipsychotics are indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

- **Benefits of LAIs:** improve compliance, prevent relapse and hospitalization.
- A 2015 SA Health internal audit showed that “46% of patients prescribed an LAI antipsychotic were administered not in accordance with product information guidelines”

Aim

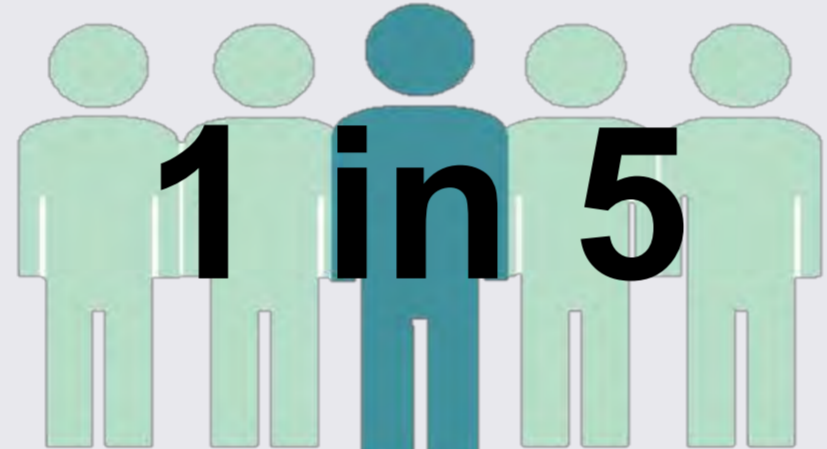
To evaluate antipsychotic LAI prescribing and administration practices across the state.

Method

- **Study design:** Retrospective descriptive study
- **Data source:** Community Based Information System (CBIS) across South Australia
- **Study period:** 16/01/23 - 24/04/23
- **Study population:** Individuals aged ≥18 years seen by metropolitan adult or older persons community mental health teams
- **Outcome measures:** Practices compared to the Therapeutic Goods Administration Product Information (PI) and statewide guidance

Results

- 5808 injections administered to a total of 1613 participants
- Most patients had LAI antipsychotics administered by Mental Health services and were between the ages of 30-50

 1 in 5	1 in 14	13.5% (n=112)	3% of patients
had their LAI antipsychotic administered in an unapproved site	had a dose and/or frequency prescribed that did not align with PI recommendations	of deltoid administrations exceeded the recommended volume of 2mL	prescribed double depots, 52% (n=26) of which included zucloperithixol as a treatment strategy

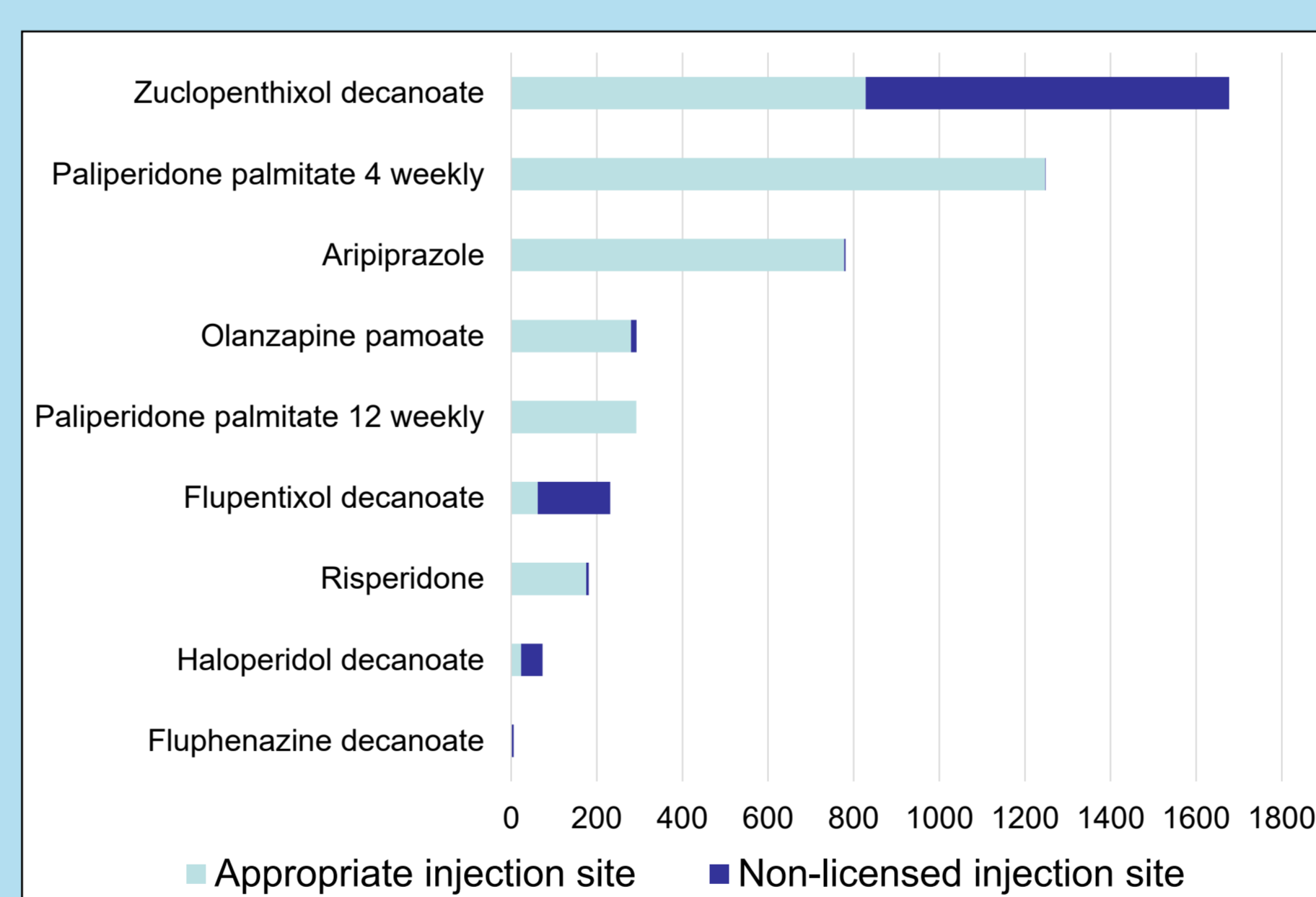


Figure 1: Antipsychotic LAI's administered by agent Appropriate vs Non-licensed administration sites

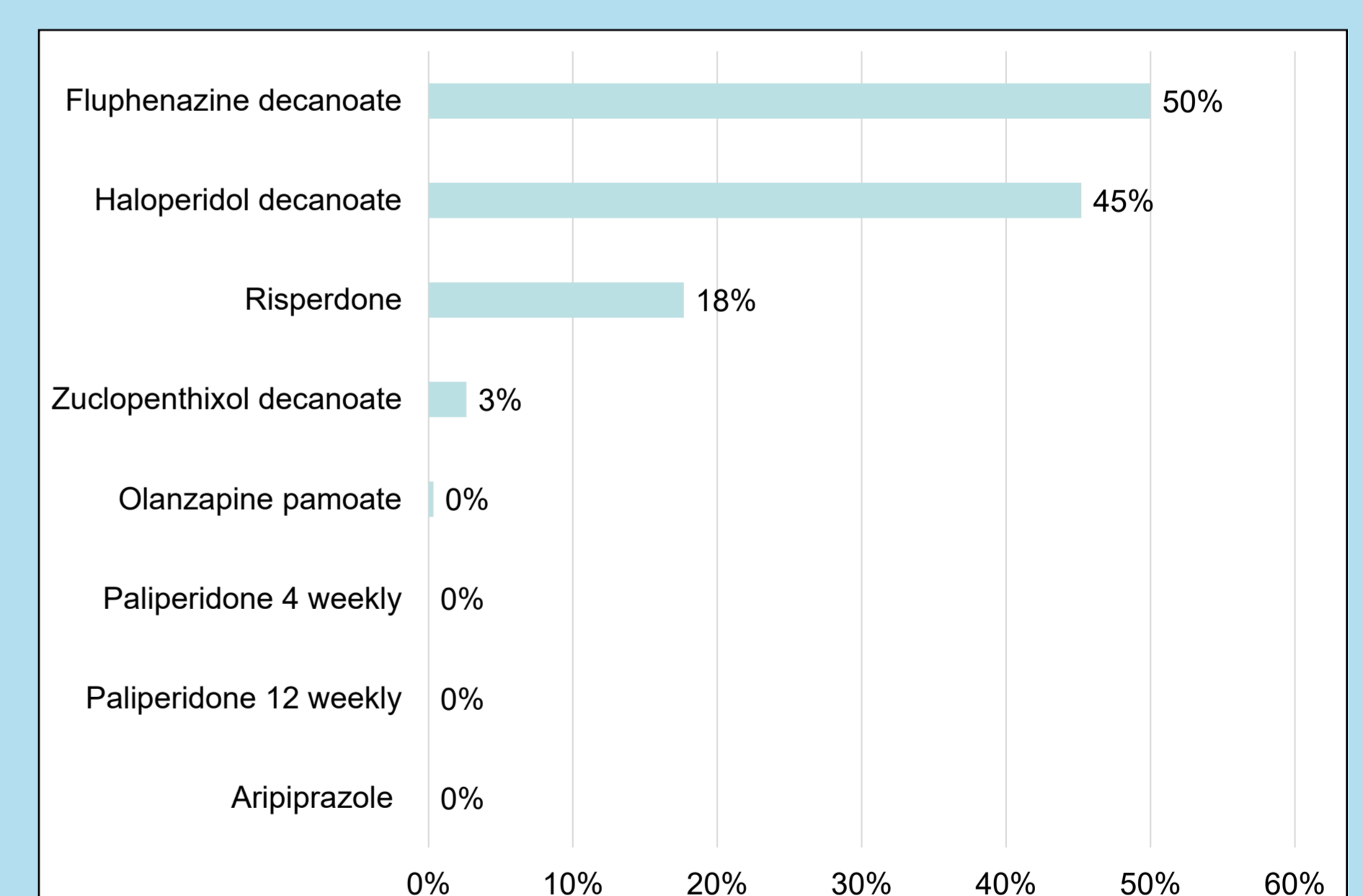


Figure 2: Injections exceeding approved administration volume by agent

Conclusion

- **Deviation from approved product information** for administration sites was observed
 - Particularly for older first generation long-acting antipsychotic injections
- No national or international data for high dose or dual LAI antipsychotic use available for comparison
- Moving forward, this research can be used to provide education and training to staff regarding best practice LAI antipsychotic use and administration

For more information

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