

Prescribing...

Ten Commandments

- * Thou shalt treat thy patients according to level of risk rather than level of risk factor.
 - * Thou shalt exercise great caution when adding drugs to existing polypharmacy.
- * Thou shalt consider the benefits of drugs as proven only by high quality hard endpoint studies.
 - * Thou shalt not bow down to surrogate endpoints, for these are but graven images.
 - * Thou shalt not worship Treatment Targets, for these are but the creations of Committees.
- * Thou shalt apply a very large pinch of salt to Relative Risk Reductions, regardless of P values, for the population of their provenance may bear little relationship to thy daily clientele in the Bailiwick.
 - * Thou shalt honour the Numbers Needed to Treat, for therein rest the clues to patient-relevant information and to treatment costs.
- * Thou shalt not see smartly dressed detailmen, nor covet an "Educational" "Symposium" in a luxury setting.
 - * Thou shalt share thy decisions on treatment options with thy patient in the light of estimates of that individual's likely risks and benefits.
 - * Honour the elderly patient, this is where the greatest levels of risk reside, so do the greatest hazards of many treatments.

Written by: *Geraldine O'Riordan*, Prescribing Advisor Tel: 01481-732460

Reference : <http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2012/01/03/richard-lehmans-journal-review-3-january-2012/>