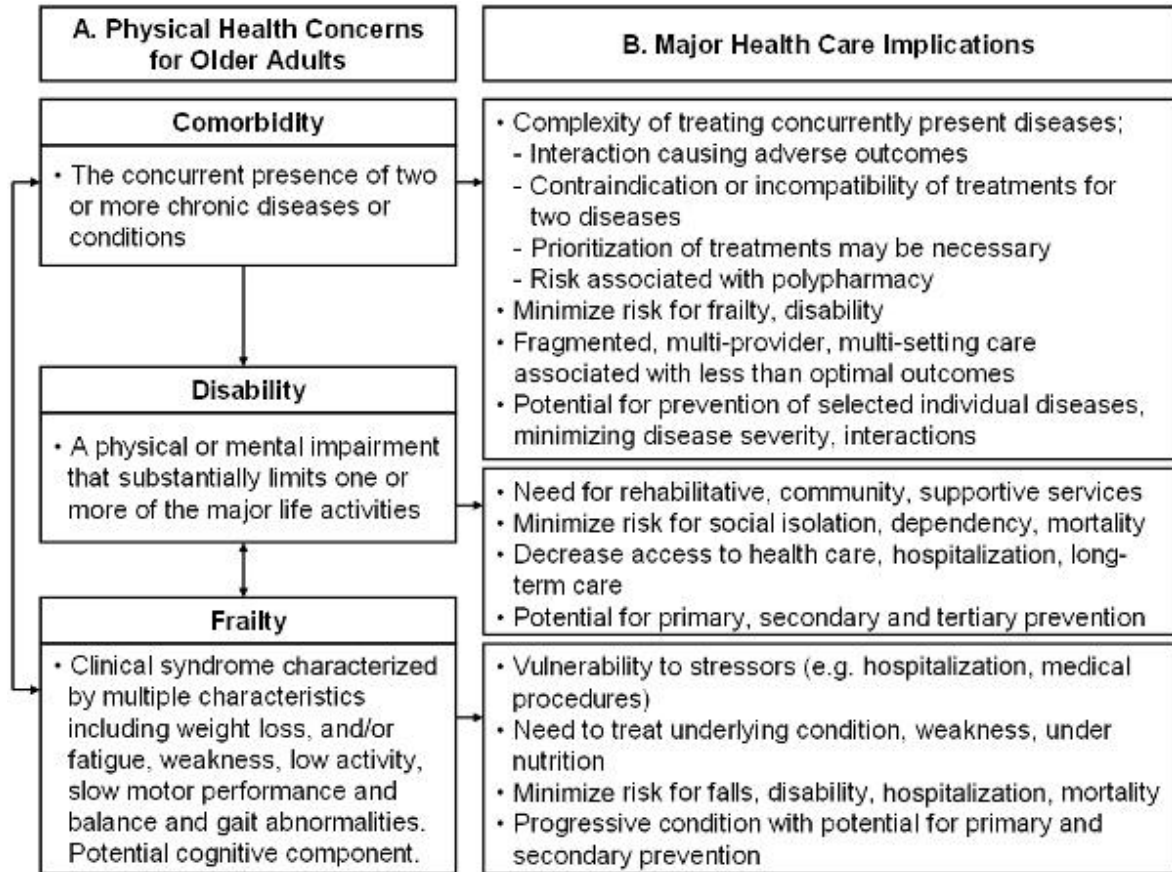


The link between frailty, disability and polypathology

Figure 1: Definitions of frailty, comorbidities (polypathology) and disability, and their major healthcare implications in the general population.¹



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Disability

Tools to assess disability and physical/psychological functioning

- Physical disability is strongly associated with chronic conditions in older patients²
 - validated tools that can be used to assess disability include [the SF-36](#)* and [the EuroQol \(EQ-5D\)](#).*
- Patient-reported outcomes offer another way to assess a person's overall physical and mental wellbeing and physical functioning
 - validated tools that can be used to assess patient reported outcomes include a tool from [the University of Oxford Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Group](#).* and from [the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention](#).*

References

1. Fried LP, Ferrucci L, Darer J, Williamson JD, Anderson G: [Untangling the concepts of disability, frailty and comorbidity: implications for improved targeting and care.](#)* *J Gerontol Biol Sci Med Sci.* 2004;59:255–263.
2. Williams SR, Pham-Kanter G, Leitsch SA. [Measures of chronic conditions and diseases associated with aging in the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project.](#)* *J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci.* 2009;64(Suppl 1):i67–i75.