After considering the evidence of safety, efficacy and special populations for the treatment of insomnia, I move that the newer sedative hypnotics be considered as two subclasses, benzodiazepine receptor agonists (eszopiclone, zaleplon, zolpidem and long acting zolpidem) and a non-benzodiazepine receptor agonist (ramelteon). The newer sedative hypnotics are safe and efficacious. The benzodiazepine receptor agonists can be subject to therapeutic interchange in the Washington preferred drug list for the treatment of insomnia, ramelteon cannot be substituted for other drugs in this class. At least one benzodiazepine receptor agonist must be preferred.