

12 January 2004



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NICE consults on first draft of technology appraisal on the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis and the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published the first draft of a technology appraisal on the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis and prevention of osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women on the NHS in England and Wales. The draft version was published on the NICE website on the 19 December 2003 at <http://www.nice.org.uk/article.asp?a=97559> for a four week consultation period which ends on the 23 January 2004.

NICE has not yet issued guidance to the NHS on how osteoporosis should be treated and prevented; the final guidance is expected in June 2004.

Peter Littlejohns, Clinical Director at NICE and Executive Lead for this appraisal, said, "NICE is developing guidance on drugs for osteoporosis in consultation with groups representing women with this condition, and health professionals involved in their care. During this consultation period anyone with an interest in the guidance can comment on the draft version via the NICE website."

A list of stakeholders for this appraisal can be found on our web site at www.nice.org.uk "

Ends

Notes for editors

About NICE

1. NICE is part of the NHS. It is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for those using the NHS in England and Wales. Its guidance is for healthcare professionals and patients and their carers to help them make decisions about treatment and healthcare. For further information about NICE you can visit www.nice.org.uk.
2. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
 - the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales – technology appraisals.
 - the appropriate treatment and care of patients with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS in England and Wales – clinical guidelines.
 - whether interventional procedures used for diagnosis or treatment are safe enough and work well enough for routine use – interventional procedures.

NICE also funds four enquiries that undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care (the investigations are known as confidential enquiries).

3. NICE guidance and recommendations are prepared by independent groups that include professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers.

About technology appraisals

5. Technology appraisals are recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales, such as:
 - medicines (for example, drugs)
 - medical devices (for example, hearing aids or inhalers)
 - diagnostic techniques (tests used to identify diseases)
 - surgical procedures (for example, repairing hernias)
 - health promotion activities (for example, patient education models for diabetes).
5. Our technology appraisal recommendations are prepared by an independent Committee, who include healthcare professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers. The Committee considers the evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of the technology – this includes hearing the views of, and evidence from, clinical health professionals, experts and patients.
6. NHS organisations in England and Wales have to make the resources and facilities available to enable NICE guidance to be implemented. In January 2002 the Government announced a legal obligation for the NHS to provide funding for treatments and drugs recommended by NICE as a part of its technology appraisals work programme.