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Appraisal Consultation Document: Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate and strontium ranelate for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women

Appraisal Consultation Document: Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, strontium ranelate and teriparatide for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women

Dear Ms Fuller

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the above Appraisal Consultation Documents. We are broadly in agreement with these but wish to highlight two concerns, as detailed below. Please note that these points are common to both documents.

Strontium Ranelate

There seems to be some disparity between the attention afforded to the gastrointestinal side effects of the oral bisphosphonates and that given to strontium ranelate. Whilst we agree that the oral bisphosphonates are commonly associated with gastrointestinal side effects, we would also point out that the SPC for strontium ranelate lists nausea and diarrhoea as being common adverse reactions.

Raloxifene

At present, the two documents appear to be inconsistent in the way that the breast cancer benefit of raloxifene is presented. We suggest that Section 4.3.18 of the Primary Prevention ACD and Sections 4.3.17/4.3.18 of the Secondary Prevention ACD should present the same information, allowing the documents to be read independently of each other.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

National Guidance Coordinator