

3 June 2005

«Full_Name»
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Dear «Title» «Last_Name»

Health Technology Appraisal and Clinical Guideline

Osteoporosis

As you are aware, the Institute is currently developing several pieces of guidance on osteoporosis. These consist of:

- a Clinical Guideline on the assessment of fracture risk and prevention of osteoporotic fracture in individuals at high risk
- a Technology Appraisal on the use of bisphosphonates and selective oestrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fractures in post menopausal women
- a Technology Appraisal on strontium ranelate for the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis (primary and secondary prevention)

Also, in January 2005 the Institute issued guidance on the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures in post menopausal women.¹

The Guideline and the Technology Appraisals are closely linked and the Guideline Development Group and the Appraisal Committee are working closely together in line with their respective processes. The same economic analyses will inform the decision making of both advisory bodies ensuring a consistent approach across all the NICE products for osteoporosis.

In the interests of consistency, the Institute has considered whether the guidance on secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures¹ needs to be updated in the light of developments in the economic analyses and the evidence base that informs them.

The Institute is planning to proceed as follows:

¹ Bisphosphonates (alendronate, etidronate, risedronate), selective oestrogen receptor modulators (raloxifene) and parathyroid hormone (teriparatide) for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women, Technology appraisal No.87 issued January 2005

- **Appraisals**
 - At their meeting on 6 September 2005, the Appraisal Committee will discuss the clinical and cost effectiveness of bisphosphonates, selective oestrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) and strontium ranelate for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women
 - The Appraisal Committee will also discuss the clinical and cost effectiveness of strontium ranelate for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women
 - The Appraisal Committee will also consider the extent to which the published Technology appraisal No 87 requires updating
 - The Committee will agree the content of two Appraisal Consultation Documents (ACDs) one covering primary prevention and one covering secondary prevention for all referred technologies. These will be sent to consultees and commentators for comment approximately 15 working days after the Committee meeting.
 - The Assessment Report for strontium ranelate (primary and secondary prevention) and the Addendum to the Assessment Report for the use of bisphosphonates and selective oestrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) for primary prevention will be sent to consultees and commentators for comment at the end of July 2005. These documents should be read alongside each other. Please separate your comments on these reports into those related to primary prevention and those related to secondary prevention.

- **Clinical guideline:**
 - The timelines for release of the first draft of the guideline will be extended to allow time for the incorporation of the considerations of the Technology Appraisals Committee.
 - The first consultation will begin 27 September 2005
 - Second consultation is scheduled to begin 12 December 2005
 - The anticipated publication date of the guideline is therefore revised to May 2006.

It is important to note that **all** comments received from the consultations in both the Appraisals and Guidelines programmes will be published on the Institutes website.

We feel that this approach provides an opportunity for the Institute to bring together its osteoporosis guidance and make it most useful to clinical practice.

If you have any queries regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Marschke, Technology Appraisal Project Manager (emily.marschke@nice.org.uk, 020 7067 5928) or Cathryn Fuller, Guidelines Co-ordinator (cathryn.fuller@nice.org.uk, 020 7067 5896).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Longson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C' and 'L'.

Dr C Longson
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