**Interim Statement on Denosumab administration in Primary Care during pandemic covid-19**

Discontinuation of Denosumab leads to rapid loss of bone, and increased risk of sustaining (multiple) vertebral fractures. In accordance with COVID-19 rapid guideline: rheumatological autoimmune, inflammatory and metabolic bone disorders [NICE guideline [NG167]](file:///C:\Users\steve.fleck\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\FODW9MM4\COVID-19%20rapid%20guideline:%20rheumatological%20autoimmune,%20inflammatory%20and%20metabolic%20bone%20disorders%20NICE%20guideline%20%5bNG167%5d) **Denosumab should not be postponed**. To support local clinical decision-making and continuity of care for Denosumab patients during covid-19, the Osteoporosis Working Group have agreed the following temporary advice:

1. Every effort should be made to support this vulnerable groups of patients.  Injections should continue, following locally agreed protocols (and/or approaches) to maximise safety of patients and medical staff. Factors such as the  age of the patient, presence of serious co-morbidities and ability to visit the surgery/home visiting options, availability of staff and establishing lack of COVID-19 related symptoms for both patient and staff ahead of the appointment, will all be important considerations.
2. Every effort must be made to ensure continuation of Denosumab but where it is judged that the risk of visiting for a Denosumab injection is unacceptable, or it is simply not possible to provide the service, or risks to patients are unacceptable, oral bisphosphonates or Raloxifene should be considered as a temporary replacement for Denosumab therapy. This should be discussed in liaison with a local specialist. To enable effective discussion a detailed history of previous anti-osteoporosis medication needs to be at hand.
3. Please note Raloxifene should only be used in line with NICE TA 161 ([See Dorset Formulary](http://www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=6&SubSectionRef=06.04.01.01&SubSectionID=D100&drugmatch=480#480)). For full details of side effects and contraindications, see the [summary of product characteristics.](https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/6882/smpc)
4. If neither of these approaches is possible, local specialist clinicians are happy to discuss the options for individual patients in their area via advice and guidance.
5. New patients requiring denosumab initiation should ideally be deferred and continue on current treatments until the risks of Covid-19 subside. Please seek advice and guidance from a specialist clinician if necessary.

***\*\* Disclaimer \*\*.*** *This is rapid impact summary and contains links to interim guidance developed to respond to emerging prescribing and medicines management issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. Best efforts have been made to consult with the relevant specialities before guidance is published. In the current climate guidance is subject rapid change, often on a daily basis. Please consider this when utilising this guidance. We ask practices only to adopt guidance National Guidance from NHS England & Improvement, NICE or from Dorset CCG.*